

ALASKA'S

# Mat Su

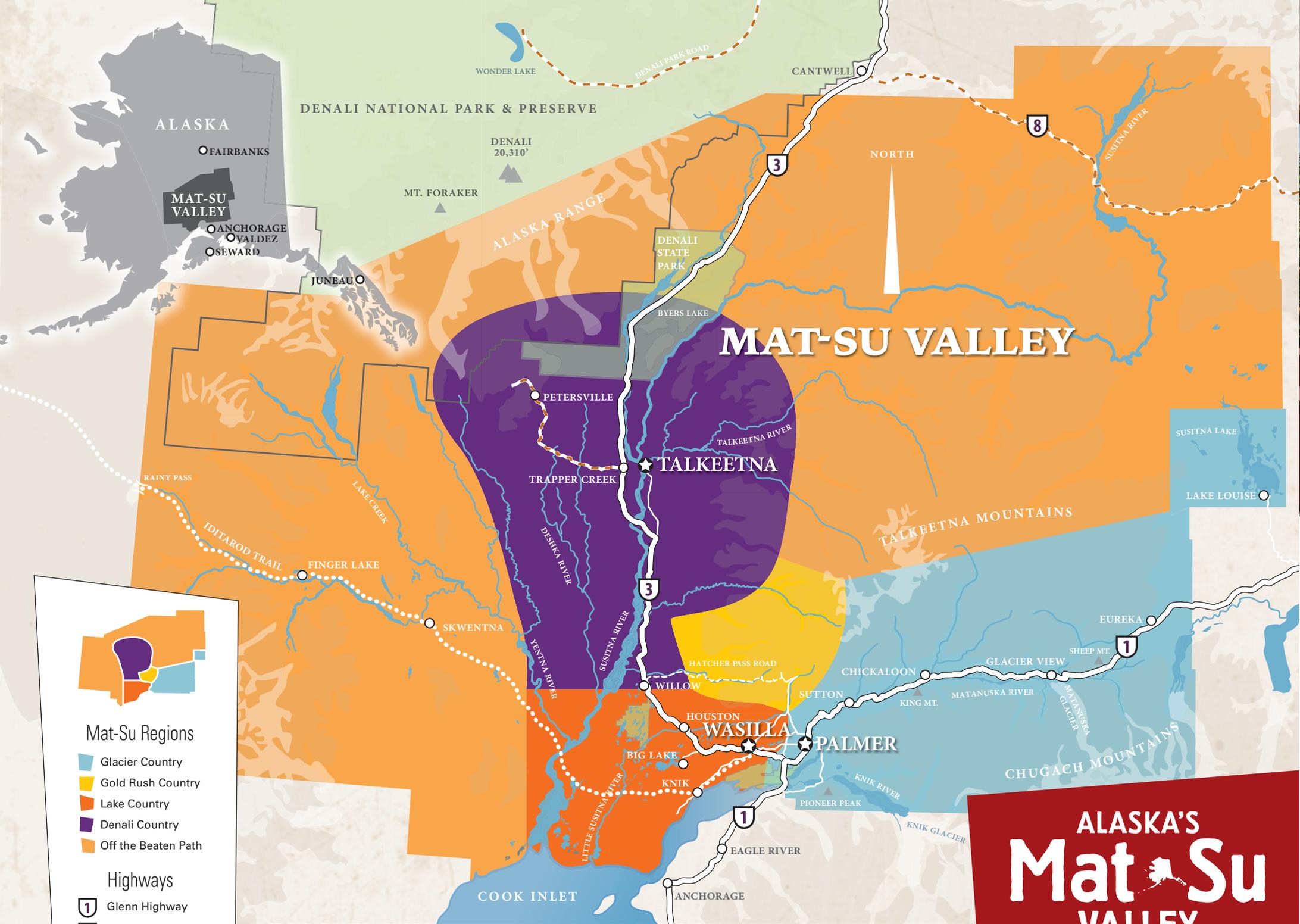
VALLEY

Just North of Anchorage  
all the way to Denali Park



Official Visitor Guide

[alaskavisit.com](http://alaskavisit.com)



**Mat-Su Regions**

- Glacier Country
- Gold Rush Country
- Lake Country
- Denali Country
- Off the Beaten Path

**Highways**

- 1 Glenn Highway
- 3 Parks Highway
- 8 Denali Highway

**Legend**

- ★ Regional Center
- Mat-Su townsite
- Primary Highway
- Paved Road
- - - Unpaved Road
- ⋯ Iditarod Trail
- Nat'l/State Park

Road Distances mi/km	Anchorage	Wasilla	Palmer	Hatcher Pass**	Lake Louise	Talkeetna	Denali	Fairbanks	Valdez
<b>Anchorage</b>	0	42/68	42/68	60/97	160/260	113/182	237/381	362/583	304/489
<b>Wasilla</b>	42/68	0	10/16*	24/39	131/211	71/114	195/314	320/515	272/438
<b>Palmer</b>	42/68	10/16*	0	20/32	118/190	85/136	208/355	323/520	262/422
<b>Hatcher Pass**</b>	60/97	24/39	20/32	0	136/219	96/153	219/352	334/538	282/454
<b>Lake Louise</b>	160/260	131/211	118/190	136/219	0	203/326	326/525^	481/774^	163/262
<b>Talkeetna</b>	113/182	71/114	85/136	96/153	203/326	0	153/245	278/447	417/670
<b>Denali</b>	237/381	195/314	208/335	219/352	326/525^	153/245	0	125/201	470/756^
<b>Fairbanks</b>	362/583	320/515	323/520	334/538	481/774^	278/447	125/201	0	585/422^
<b>Valdez</b>	304/489	272/438	262/422	282/454	163/262	417/670	470/756^	585/422^	0

## ALASKA'S Mat-Su VALLEY

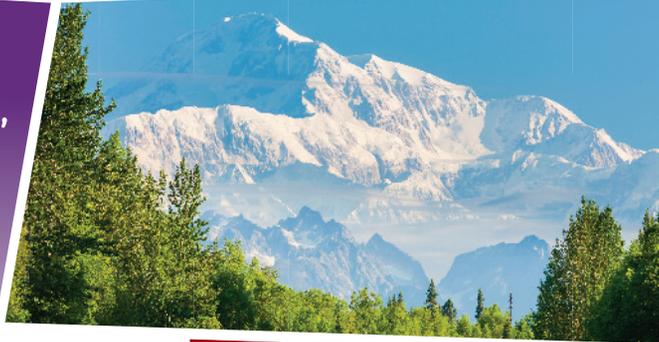
The Mat-Su Valley is centrally located just **35 miles north of Anchorage, south of Denali National Park** and at the **convergence of Alaska's major highways**, truly making "the Valley" **the Heart of Alaska**.

**Each region** in this guide is identified by a corresponding **color**. Use this map to chart your course to **adventure** and guide you to **exciting activities** throughout the **Mat-Su Valley**.

NOTE: Distance figures have been rounded to the nearest m/km. Mileage has been taken from the "2013 Milepost."™  
 ^Via Glenn to Parks Highway ^Via Palmer-Wasilla Highway  
 \*\*Distance to Independence Mine State Historical Park

# Mat-Su Must Do

✓ **Explore** Denali,  
North America's  
tallest peak



✓ **Discover**  
the Native  
Alaskan culture



## Explore "THE VALLEY"



✓ **Trek**  
on timeless  
glacial ice



✓ **See** wildlife



✓ **Enjoy**  
hundreds of miles  
of wilderness trails



The Matanuska-Susitna Valley encompasses 23,000 square miles of mountains, glaciers, rivers and lakes, it's the Alaska you've always dreamed about, and bursts with adventures at every turn in the road. Wide open spaces and the great outdoors make this area an ideal destination to relax and recharge. Locals call this region several names – "the Mat-Su Valley" or simply "The Valley" for short. Mat-Su actually is a shortened version of the proper name of the region – Matanuska-Susitna, which represents the two major rivers and valleys that form the region. The Matanuska Valley stretches along the Glenn Highway National Scenic Byway (Highway 1) all the way to Lake Louise. The Parks Highway (Highway 3) takes you north to Denali State Park in the heart of the Susitna Valley. The Valley begins just 35 miles north of Anchorage, making it a convenient destination for a day trip. Better yet, use the Mat-Su as your hub for a Southcentral Alaska adventure. Plan to stay awhile and discover all there is to see and do – you'll definitely say "Yahoo, Mat-Su!"

### Passport to Adventure

While the Mat-Su Valley isn't labeled on many state maps, you can't miss it. The region is large, diverse and boasts remote wilderness and classic Alaska communities such as Palmer, Wasilla, Big Lake, Houston, Willow, Talkeetna and Glacier View. Each town anchors a distinct region or "country" within the Mat-Su Valley, worth your visit. This guide is organized by those regions, each highlighting a unique geographic draw:

**GLACIER COUNTRY** – Lake Louise and Matanuska Glacier (Glacier View) south to Palmer along the Glenn Highway National Scenic Byway (Hwy. 1), including Chickaloon, Sutton and the Knik River Valley;

**GOLD RUSH COUNTRY** – Hatcher Pass and Independence Mine State Historical Park;

**LAKE COUNTRY** – Wasilla north to Big Lake and Houston along the Parks Highway (Hwy. 3);

**DENALI COUNTRY** – Including Willow, Talkeetna and Denali State Park;

**OFF THE BEATEN PATH** and **THE REST OF ALASKA** - Begin planning your visit to each of these regions to fill your passport with adventure.

[AlaskaVisit.com](http://AlaskaVisit.com)

02

Trip Planning

12

Glacier Country

22

Gold Rush Country

26

Lake Country

34

Denali Country

44

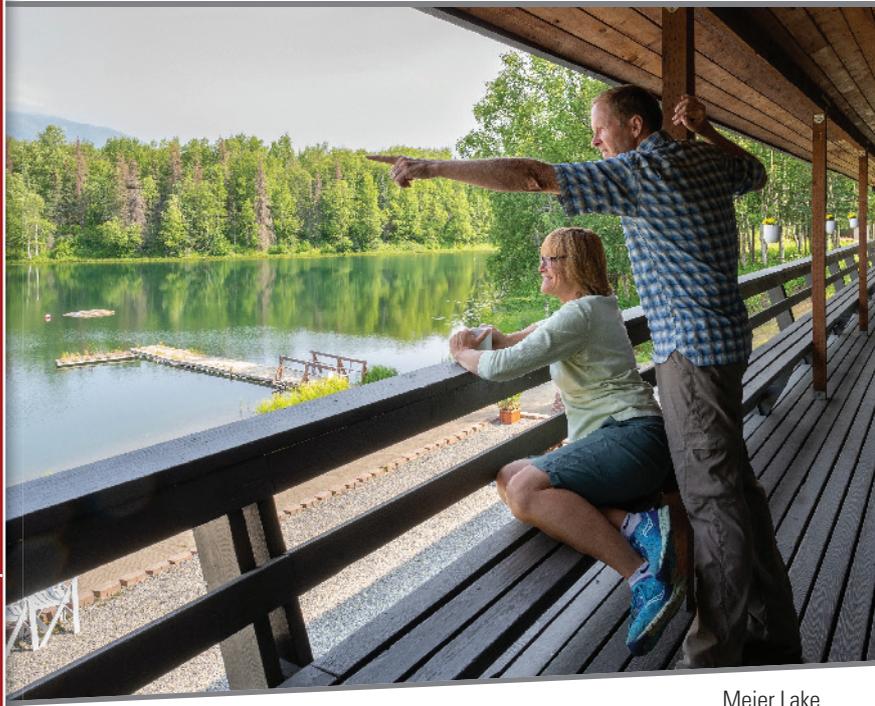
Off the Beaten Path

46

The Rest of Alaska



## Trip Planning



Meier Lake

### Plan Ahead

In addition to this guide, start your planning at [www.alaskavisit.com](http://www.alaskavisit.com) to discover what awaits. The site is packed with information, a calendar of events, an informative blog as well as beautiful images of the area. Check out the suggested itineraries section for ideas ranging from day trips from Anchorage to multi-day adventures. When you start planning, use our database of member businesses to find the perfect fit for your vacation. Make sure to sign up for the e-newsletter to stay up to date.

You can request a digital version of the visitor guide, so you'll always have it on your computer or tablet.

### Websites for Local Chambers of Commerce



[www.palmerchamber.org](http://www.palmerchamber.org) | [www.wasillachamber.org](http://www.wasillachamber.org)  
[www.waco-ak.org](http://www.waco-ak.org) | [www.talkeetnachamber.org](http://www.talkeetnachamber.org)

### Connect With Us!

If you want to get a sneak peek at what you'll see, check us out on Instagram – we're [@matsuvallyak](https://www.instagram.com/matsuvallyak) – and don't forget to tag your photos with [#yahoomatsu](https://www.instagram.com/yahoomatsu). Visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/visitmatsu](https://www.facebook.com/visitmatsu) to keep up with what's going on, and check out [www.alaskavisit.com/blog](http://www.alaskavisit.com/blog) for unique insights on things to see and do, from an Alaskan's perspective. To really get excited, visit our expanded channel on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/yahoomatsu](https://www.youtube.com/yahoomatsu), where you'll find videos from every corner of the region.

### Visitor Information in Every Direction

The Mat-Su Valley, much like Alaska in general, is a big area and can seem overwhelming to first-time visitors. Friendly and helpful resources in every community will help make your trip a success. Stop in and talk with the locals – they can steer you in the right direction.



### Travel Safely

The safety of our visitors, and our communities, is paramount. Be reassured, Mat-Su businesses are going above and beyond with safety and sanitization protocols, and we are encouraging our visitors to do the same. Providing visitors a safe and memorable experience is the top priority for everyone.

In Palmer, the **Palmer Visitor Center** and Palmer Museum of History and Art are open year-round. They have a wealth of knowledge about the Colony project and the agricultural history of Palmer. Check out their amazing garden in the summer, featuring Alaska wildflowers and vegetables. There's even a replica of a world-famous giant cabbage.

**Location:**  
723 S. Valley Way, Palmer

**Phone:**  
(907) 746-7668

**Hours:**  
Oct. 1-April 30, open Wednesday-Friday,  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Open daily in the Summer

**The Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce** operates a visitor center near the historic train depot, where the Alaska Railroad stops daily in the summer. Stop in even if you aren't on the train for more information about the Wasilla area.

**Location:**  
1155 E. Depot Rd.,  
Wasilla

**Phone:**  
(907) 376-1299

**Hours:**  
Open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday,  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (3 p.m. on Friday)

Also in Wasilla, the **Wasilla Museum**, formerly known as the Dorothy Page Museum, doubles as a visitor information center. You can learn about Wasilla's rich history, including touring the actual old townsite, and also get information for your next adventure.

**Location:**  
391 N. Main St., Wasilla

**Phone:**  
(907) 373-9071

**Hours:**  
Open Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Along the Glenn Highway, **Alpine Historical Park** at Mile 61.6 has information about the area's rich history, as well as visitor information for the Matanuska Valley. The open-air museum and historical park focuses on the early settlers and the Athabascan cultures in the Sutton and Chickaloon areas.

**Location:**  
Mile 61.6 Glenn Highway,  
Sutton

**Phone:**  
(907) 745-7000

**Hours:**  
Open daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.,  
mid-May through mid-September

In the small community of Talkeetna, there isn't a visitor information center, but an unmanned kiosk at the corner of Spur Road and Main Street (the main intersection) has a wealth of information about area attractions and lodging opportunities. Also, visit [talkeetnachamber.org](http://talkeetnachamber.org) for informative trip planning information.

**Glacier View** has an informational kiosk located at Mile 99 Glenn Hwy., with information about the region near Matanuska Glacier. Find out information on rafting, glacier trekking and helicopter tours, as well as lodging information.

### Find Your Next Adventure

Alaska is the only state where there are no interstate highways. Three state highways frame the Mat-Su Valley, however: the Glenn (Highway 1), Parks (Highway 3) and Denali (Highway 8) highways. The Denali Highway is not paved, but the Glenn and Parks are major highways. If you're a do-it-yourself traveler, fly to Anchorage, rent a car or motorhome and drive to the Mat-Su Valley and let the area be your hub for your adventure. Or, if you prefer more guidance, let tour professionals arrange one-day and multi-day tours with transportation included. Find a list on [www.alaskavisit.com](http://www.alaskavisit.com).



Knik Glacier

## Step Off The Ship And Into Adventure

### Choose Mat-Su When You Cruise

The Mat-Su Valley may be miles from the nearest cruise port of call, but it can be a major part of your Alaska cruise vacation. Don't limit yourself to just the coastline when visiting Alaska via a cruise, and add on a land portion – you'll see a whole other side of Alaska! Set aside time before or after your ocean journey to explore Alaska beyond its coastlines. Many companies offer inclusive land tour options to add to your trip, either before you embark or after your cruise. It's also easy to do it yourself with some planning. The Mat-Su Valley's location is ideal to add a day trip (complete with round-trip transportation), a three-day or even week-long excursion either before or after your Alaska cruise. Take some time and explore Southcentral Alaska, including spectacular views of Denali.

Step off the ship, and in just three days, you can:

- 1. Experience Denali** – Stay in Talkeetna and marvel at the view. The town has a vibe all its own. From Talkeetna, you can flightsee around Denali, take a jet boat trip up the many rivers, raft and hike. The quaint town may be hundreds of miles from the nearest cruise port, but it's a destination you don't want to miss on your land portion.
- 2. Walk on a glacier** – Matanuska Glacier is just two hours north of Anchorage, and you can trek on the timeless ice. If you are short on time, consider a helicopter tour to Knik Glacier.
- 3. Experience our culture** – In the core area of Wasilla and Palmer, visit museums, the Musk Ox Farm and the Iditarod headquarters to find out about the regions history and culture.

### Need More Ideas?

Go to [www.alaskavisit.com](http://www.alaskavisit.com) to see suggested itineraries, a complete calendar of events, blog posts and listings for businesses that can assist your planning. Or call the Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau at (907) 746-5000. We look forward to seeing you in our neck of the woods.

### Share your experiences

Share your experiences in the Mat-Su Valley with us, long after you've returned home. Stay connected to the places and people you discover during your visit on social media. Tweet at us on Twitter ([@visitmatsu](https://twitter.com/visitmatsu)) or "like" us on Facebook (Visit Alaska's Mat-Su Valley). Follow us on Instagram at [@matsuvolleyak](https://www.instagram.com/matsuvolleyak) and don't forget to hashtag your photos [#yahoomatsu](https://www.instagram.com/yahoomatsu). Get excited about your visit by watching our videos on YouTube ([yahoomatsu](https://www.youtube.com/yahoomatsu)). Finally, check out [www.alaskavisit.com/blog](http://www.alaskavisit.com/blog) to keep up with what's happening in the Mat-Su Valley.



### Local Tip - To the Top

Just miles from Palmer is one of Alaska's most popular hikes – Bodenburg Butte. This geographic formation is 900 feet tall and provides spectacular, 360-degree views of the Matanuska Valley and the Chugach Mountains. The well-maintained trail is 1.5 miles long and includes staircases going to the top. It's steep, but well worth it. Great for families and hikers with dogs.

# Do It Yourself

## Trail Mix— run, bike or hike

The Mat-Su Valley has more than 2,000 miles of trails, making it a hiker's paradise, regardless of your skill level. Take advantage of our wide open spaces by getting back to nature. Pick a destination, distance and degree of difficulty – the possibilities are limitless in all regions of the Mat-Su Valley. Take the family on a gentle, historic railroad trail near Palmer, or hike a ridge surrounding the mining region of Hatcher Pass, with views of the Matanuska Valley below. Explore the alpine wilderness of the Talkeetna Mountains on foot or ATV, or by professional guide service for even more adventure. For amazing views in just an hour, try the Butte just outside of Palmer. Denali State Park has many trails with views of the Alaska Range, including an ADA-accessible trail at Kesugi Ken Campground. You can find trail maps at [www.alaskavisit.com/trails](http://www.alaskavisit.com/trails).

## Hit the water

The Mat-Su Valley is home to countless rivers, lakes, creeks and streams, so the Mat-Su has something for every water enthusiast. You can rent a canoe or kayak for a serene afternoon on a lake, or help paddle a raft down a river with an expert guide. The Lynx Lake Canoe Trail in Nancy Lake State Recreation Area off the Parks Highway in Willow offers easy portages between lakes, campgrounds and cabins for rent. Farther north in Denali State Park, you can rent canoes at Byers Lake. Lake Louise (off the Glenn Highway) is also a premier destination for water activities. Lake fishing is one of the Mat-Su Valley's best-kept secrets.

## Learn about the Locals

The Mat-Su Valley's history is diverse, from a rich Native Alaskan Athabascan culture to gold mining and agriculture. Find out about this diverse history at one of the many museums.

- The Wasilla Museum (formerly known as the Dorothy Page Museum) is a great place to start. Wander through historic buildings and see exhibits that tell stories of the area's past.
- The Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry is filled with relics from Alaska's past, including airplanes, railroad cars and vintage automobiles.
- Palmer's agricultural colony heritage is on display at the Palmer Museum of History and Art and the Colony House Museum.
- Take Talkeetna's 13-site historic town walking tour and learn for yourself how the miners and trappers lived. Don't forget the Talkeetna Historical Society Museum or the Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station to learn about Alaska's mountain climbing legends.
- On the Glenn Highway, stop in at the Alpine Historical Park to learn about the Native Alaskan history of the region.

## Marvel at North America's Highest Peak

20,310-foot Denali is a spectacular sight to behold! Heading north on the Parks Highway (Hwy. 3), you'll get your first glimpse of the mountain in Willow. Farther north in Talkeetna, there are many activities focused on Denali. The southern views of Denali are widely considered the best in the state.

- Walk the lakeside trail around Byers Lake or climb to Kesugi or Curry Ridge in Denali State Park for undisturbed vistas of the "High One."
- Parks Highway pullouts at mileposts 135 and 147 provide safe areas to capture Denali's grandeur.
- The Kesugi Ken Campground at Mile 135.4 offers amazing views of Denali as well with easy walking trails to viewpoints.
- Dramatic aerial views of Denali's lofty summit, flanking glaciers and granite canyons highlight flightseeing trips from Talkeetna.



Matanuska Glacier

## Scenic Drives

Leave the crowds in the city and head out on a scenic drive - the Mat-Su Valley is filled with gorgeous scenery and sweeping vistas in every region.

- Trip 1:** Head north on the Glenn Highway National Scenic Byway (Hwy. 1) and enjoy the views of the Chugach and Talkeetna mountains, while the Matanuska River frames your drive. Trek on Matanuska Glacier or try an exciting raft trip through Lion's Head rapids, and stop at a local roadhouse for a tasty lunch or cozy overnight stay.
- Trip 2:** Drive over Hatcher Pass Road to Willow – it opens to traffic around the Fourth of July and stays open until mid-September, weather permitting. Check with Alaska State Parks to confirm the road is open if you are traveling in early summer or late fall. Visit Independence Mine and Willow Creek for a scenic loop of the Susitna Valley. Keep an eye out for the abundant wildlife in the area, including moose and bear.
- Trip 3:** Petersville Road runs through the rugged mining backcountry of Trapper Creek in Denali Country – watch for wildlife and have your camera ready! This is a rugged drive, so be sure your vehicle is capable of the drive.

## Day Trips from Anchorage

Less than an hour's drive north from Anchorage, the Mat-Su Valley is perfectly situated for day trips. Enjoy our parks and trails as you get away from the crowds – you'll feel recharged after a day exploring in the great outdoors.

- Trip 1:** Strike it rich – head to Hatcher Pass, Independence Mine and the Willow area to see mining's historical influence on the area. Don't forget your gold pan – if you do, you can rent one at the mine. There are many hiking trails in the area, and the views are spectacular as well.
- Trip 2:** Get cultured – visit Wasilla and Palmer in an afternoon – you'll see the Iditarod Headquarters, a variety of museums, the Palmer Musk Ox Farm and the Reindeer Farm. Take a farm tour to see Palmer's historical roots, and stop at a local restaurant for an Alaska Grown lunch.
- Trip 3:** Go big – as in Denali. North of Wasilla on the Parks Highway, you can visit Talkeetna for an afternoon spent flightseeing, dining, shopping, fishing, rafting or just photographing Denali. It's a great way to spend a leisurely afternoon.

## Family Vacations

Bring the whole family to the Mat-Su Valley for an exciting, and educational, experience.

- Trip 1:** Go fossil hunting along the Glenn Highway, gold panning in Hatcher Pass, bird viewing on the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge, camping and more.
- Trip 2:** There are endless hiking opportunities for people of all ages and abilities, or rent a canoe and take advantage of Nancy Lake State Recreation Area or Matanuska Lakes Recreation Area for exciting outdoor fun. Try Hatcher Pass for a great day trip with lots of views.
- Trip 3:** Fun for all ages, Friday Flings, Colony Days or the Alaska State Fair are fantastic community celebrations in downtown Palmer. Don't forget about Wasilla and Talkeetna's annual Fourth of July parades and picnic.



## Wildlife and Parks

### Part of Our Nature

Alaskans flock to the Mat-Su Valley for its many outdoor recreation opportunities. State parks, from Palmer to Denali, allow you to escape the crowds and enjoy the outdoors. The Mat-Su Valley is where Alaskans come to play! Keep an eye out for wildlife and the scores of migrating birds that come here to nest and raise their young. Be safe, and remember to respect the wildlife.



#### Moose

Winter and spring are good times to spot these large creatures on the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. Keep an eye out along the highway, especially near rivers and ponds. Enjoy them from afar – don't try to feed the moose. They are also prominent along the Glenn Highway north to the Sheep Mountain area. Knik River Road off the Old Glenn Highway is another popular spot to view moose.



#### Caribou

Related to moose and elk, caribou live in the northern and eastern reaches of the Mat-Su Borough. Herds are frequently spotted along the Denali Highway and near Lake Louise, along Hwy. 1.

#### Bear

Both brown and black bears are found throughout the Mat-Su Valley. Spotting bears is easiest on a flightseeing tour or by hiking off the main road system. They're also found along creeks and streams when the salmon are spawning. When traveling in the backcountry, carry bear spray and be sure to make noise to avoid any potential confrontations. Be bear aware!



#### Birds

From bald eagles and red-tailed hawks to songbirds and swans, a wide variety of birds travel through or spend the year in the Mat-Su. Identify them by their calls or keep an eye to the sky. The Palmer Hay Flats and Rabbit Slough, as well as the University of Alaska agriculture fields on Trunk Road, attract many migratory birds such as cranes and geese in spring. Along the Glenn Highway north, watch for migrating hawks, falcons or other raptors. Download an Alaska Birders Checklist at [www.alaskavisit.com](http://www.alaskavisit.com).

### Denali State Park *(2.5 hours north of Anchorage)*

The best views of Denali in all of Alaska can be found in Denali State Park, the smaller and less-crowded area south of the national park entrance. The views from Denali State Park are actually better than in the national park! Stop at the Denali Overlook (MP135.2 Parks Hwy) or hike the trail to Kesugi Ridge for incredible views. The newest campground in Alaska, K'esugi Ken, opened in 2017 and is located at Mile 135.4 Parks Hwy. It features easy hiking trails – some are ADA compliant – that have overlooks with panoramic views of Denali and the Alaska Range. Guided or self-guided nature hikes are available around Byers Lake. There are numerous opportunities for tent and RV camping, as well as kayak rentals.

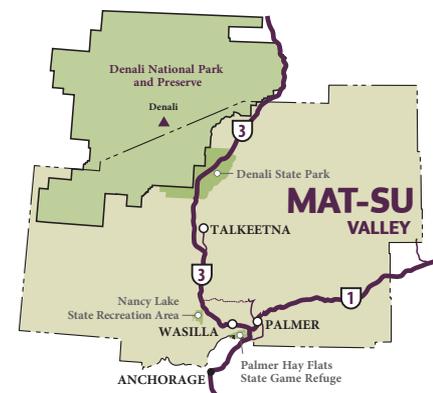
### Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge *(35 minutes north of Anchorage)*

The gateway to the Mat-Su Valley from Anchorage, this refuge has endless photography and recreation possibilities, including kayaking, canoeing and hiking. Birders, wildflower lovers and outdoor enthusiasts flock to the area. Access hiking trails from the Knik River exit (Reflections Lake) or Cottonwood Creek in Wasilla (Scout Ridge Trail). Reflections Lake also has fantastic recreational opportunities in the winter, with ice skating and cross-country skiing trails.

### Nancy Lake State Recreation Area *(1.5 hours north of Anchorage)*

Near Willow, this network of 130 lakes features camping areas, canoe rentals, and hiking and ski trails. Fish for rainbow trout, arctic char and northern pike. Reserve public-use cabins, available for rent on a nightly basis. Plan ahead and rent your cabin up to six months in advance through the Alaska State Parks' website [dnr.alaska.gov/parks/aspcabins/](http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/aspcabins/)

## Other State Recreation Areas include



- Big Lake (north and south)
- Finger Lake
- Independence Mine and Hatcher Pass
- Matanuska Lakes
- King Mountain
- Lake Louise
- Matanuska Glacier
- Willow Creek
- Summit Lake

The Mat-Su Valley encompasses an area roughly the size of West Virginia, so plan ahead and spend some time exploring. Take a couple days to explore everything there is to offer.



## Local Tip - Settlers Bay Coastal Park

One of the Valley's newest trail systems is also one of its most accessible – Settlers Bay Coastal Park. Take Knik-Goose Bay Road eight miles to Settlers Bay, then follow Settlers Bay Road to the trailhead (follow the signs). This trail system leads to the Palmer Hay Flats with amazing views of the Chugach Mountains. Keep a lookout for moose, migratory birds and salmon spawning in the streams.



Hatcher Pass

## KNEE DEEP in Winter

### Seasonal Celebrations!

#### Talkeetna Winterfest

A month-long celebration that features various activities, including the internationally recognized Talkeetna Bachelor Society Auction & Ball and Wilderness Woman Competition, which is held the first Saturday of December. Community activities held throughout December. (907) 315-8012. [www.talkeetnachamber.org](http://www.talkeetnachamber.org)

#### Colony Christmas in Palmer

A "Norman Rockwell"-style Christmas celebration, featuring a tree lighting ceremony, horse-drawn carriage rides, fireworks, Made in Alaska craft fairs, a parade of lights and of course, Santa Claus. Held the second weekend in December. (907) 745-2880. [www.palmerchamber.org](http://www.palmerchamber.org)

#### Willow Winter Carnival

A celebration of winter includes dog sled races, snowmobile racing, arts and crafts, and even outhouse races. Last weekend in January and first weekend in February. (907) 495-6800. [www.waco-ak.org](http://www.waco-ak.org)

#### Iron Dog

The world's longest snowmobile race begins on Big Lake in mid-February. Racers travel all the way to Nome, before turning around and heading back to the finish line on Big Lake, a race of more than 2,200 miles. [www.irondog.org](http://www.irondog.org)

#### Iditarod Trail Invitational

One of the most grueling events in the world, racers depart Knik Lake in early March and head out in the remote wilderness. Snowshoes, bikes or cross-country skis are their only modes of transportation, and the finish line is 350 miles away in McGrath, or 1,000 miles away in Nome. [www.iditarodtrailinvitational.com](http://www.iditarodtrailinvitational.com)

#### World Famous Iditarod Sled Dog Race

Known around the world, the Iditarod begins on Willow Lake the first Sunday in March. Racers and their teams of dogs traverse their way to Nome. The restart is family-friendly and a great chance to meet a famous musher. The Iditarod celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2022. (907) 376-5155. [www.iditarod.com](http://www.iditarod.com)

Keep an eye out for business listings that are open year round ●❖, summer only ● and winter only ❖.

You'll be amazed by the number of things to see and do throughout the year.

## Looking For Snow?

See a whole new side of Alaska by visiting in the winter. The Mat-Su Valley is an ideal winter destination. The Mat-Su Valley's first-ever triple-chair lift access ski area, Skeetawk, located in beautiful Hatcher Pass, opened in December 2020 and is very popular. It operates Fridays through Sundays, weather permitting, and is based at Mile 10.6 Palmer Fishhook Road, on the way up Hatcher Pass. Visit [www.skeetawk.com](http://www.skeetawk.com) for current conditions, hours and more. The Hatcher Pass area gets some of Southcentral Alaska's best snow and has world-class Nordic skiing trails at Government Peak. Whether you prefer first tracks in fresh powder or groomed trails, the Mat-Su is the place to be.

Removed from city lights, our starry darkness sets the stage for the brilliant colors of the northern lights. From alpenglow sunsets on Denali to the fresh, deep snow covering our lakes and peaks, you'll find yourself inspired and invigorated by a winter visit. A guided snowmobile trip to a local glacier is an unforgettable experience.

## Where to go; What to do

Escape the city lights and crowds of Anchorage for a view of our spectacular northern lights in Hatcher Pass, Knik River Valley or Denali State Park. Clear nights, January through April, are best. Dress warm!

**Follow the Iditarod** - watch the restart on Willow Lake or plan a day trip to an official checkpoint such as Skwentna or Rainy Pass. Cheer on your favorite mushers and their dog teams. Packaged Iditarod tours are available.

Visit a working **sled dog kennel** and find out what it takes to lead a team of huskies. Several Iditarod mushers offer sled tours throughout the year. Enjoy an exhilarating ride in the basket of the sled of an Iditarod champion, or try your hand at leading a team. Many kennels are open year-round, so remember to come visit again in the summer.

Explore our endless fields of snow by **renting a snowmobile** and picking up a trail map, or for a grand adventure, take a guided snowmobile excursion into Alaska's backcountry. No experience necessary. Several guided tours go right up to glaciers.

Glide on the rails of the **Alaska Railroad** and stop in Talkeetna to see Denali's towering alpenglow peak. Rail service is available northbound on Saturdays and southbound on Sundays only during the winter, with some mid-week trains available later in the winter.

**Ice-fish** for land-locked salmon, rainbow trout, arctic char and northern pike. Many Mat-Su Valley lakes are stocked throughout the year. Guides have all the gear and the knowledge you need to get started.

**Cruise the skies on a flightseeing adventure** of Knik Glacier and Chugach State Park, or Denali and the Alaska Range. Many say winter is the best time to see these peaks.

**Cross-country ski** at Government Peak or ski and snowboard virgin powder at Skeetawk in Hatcher Pass. Government Peak has a warming chalet to complement the five kilometers of **world-class groomed Nordic trails**.



### Winter at Your Fingertips

For more ideas or updates on the latest trail conditions, check out our website: [www.alaskavisit.com](http://www.alaskavisit.com). There is a whole section devoted to winter ideas.





## Glacier Country



Matanuska Glacier

*"Colony-era agriculture roots, towering mountains and accessible glaciers make Glacier Country a 'must visit' in the Mat-Su."*

### Glaciers & Giant Veggies

The Matanuska Valley was carved by glaciers thousands of years ago, and their impact remains today. The fine, fertile silt left behind by these receding glaciers, combined with long daylight hours in the summer, makes the area perfect for growing lush hayfields and world-record veggies. The Palmer area is the agricultural hub of Alaska - look for Alaska Grown vegetables! You'll be able to taste the difference - carrots are typically sweeter than those grown in the "Lower 48," for example.

- In Sutton and Chickaloon, learn about the region's rich Athabascan culture at the Alpine Historical Park.
- In the Glacier View area, explore Matanuska Glacier on a trek or ice climb. Easy to get to, it's Alaska's largest road-accessible glacier. You can do it on your own, or go out with one of the many companies who guide on the glacier - they know the best spots. Take a rafting trip down the Matanuska for a grand adventure. Enjoy helicopter tours and luxury camping opportunities.
- Explore the northern region of Glacier Country by visiting Lake Louise, located halfway between Anchorage and Valdez, just 19 miles off the scenic Glenn Highway. The peaceful lake is a hub of recreational opportunities in both summer and winter. The Nelchina caribou herd migrates through this area each year. Lodges, campgrounds and a public boat launch are available.
- Closer to Palmer, boat, helicopter or take an ATV tour to Knik Glacier. This is only an hour north of Anchorage. Stop at a roadside stand or farmers market for fresh organic vegetables, wild honey or dairy products.

### Palmer

Just 45 minutes north of Anchorage, this small town takes pride in its agricultural roots while nurturing a contemporary, Alaska "chic." The downtown area is very walkable and features locally-owned shops, cafes and microbreweries. In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt sanctioned a relocation program that brought 203 farming families to Palmer from the Midwest. Parcels of land were distributed to the "colonists" by lottery to farm and raise dairy cattle. Celebrate the anniversary of this historic event in June at Colony Days.

Start your stay at the Palmer Visitor Information Center, which has an amazing garden and replicas of those giant vegetables. Pick up a downtown walking map while you're there and tour the original Matanuska Colony. You can rent a headset for a narrated self-guided historical walking tour of the town, or take the guided tour every day at 1 p.m. On Fridays, an open-air market, featuring local artisans and growers, opens

## Where to go; What to do



**Interested in agriculture?** Tour Palmer's backcountry roads to see working farms or sample locally grown products at one of Palmer's restaurants. Guided farm tours are also available. The downtown area has a feel all its own, and you can spend an afternoon visiting the quaint shops and restaurants, many of which serve Alaska Grown products on their menus. With three microbreweries, downtown Palmer is also a great place for brewery tours.

**Get into the swing of things** at the Palmer Golf Course, offering stunning views of the Chugach Mountains, Matanuska River and Knik Glacier.

**Hike, bike or ATV** one of the many trails that begin just off the Glenn Highway; loop through miles of wilderness.

across from the center. Just up the street, tour a restored Colony home (circa 1935). And don't forget Palmer's most celebrated attraction, the Alaska State Fair, which takes place for 12 days in late August and early September, ending on Labor Day.

## Farms & Flowers

### Nine Times Warmer than Wool

Learn about the prehistoric Musk Ox at the Musk Ox Farm near Palmer. Native artists use the precious underwool (qiviut) to make beautiful knitted garments with superior warmth. Guided interpretative tours are available daily.



### A rich Athabascan culture

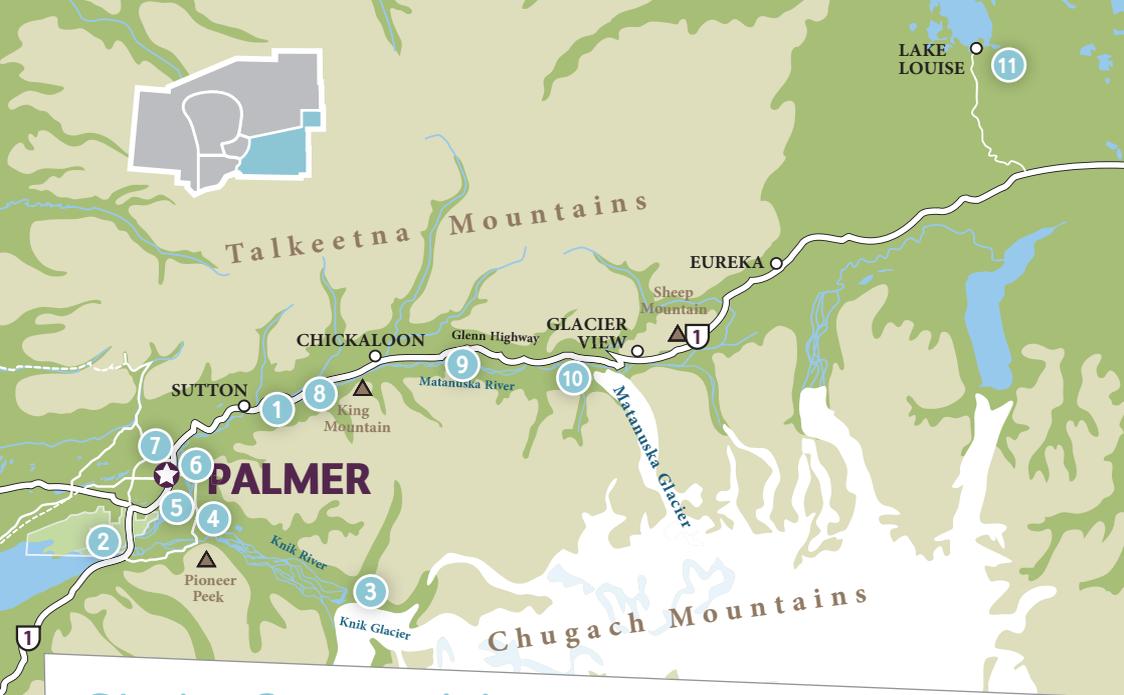
The Chickaloon Native Village is a rich Ahtna Athabascan tribe in Sutton, along the Matanuska River on the Glenn Highway. The tribe has occupied the area for 10,000 years, and their culture and traditional way of life has been unwavering. In the Ahtna language, Chickaloon means "the river with the two logs across it." Stop at Alpine Historical Park to learn more about the history.

### Pick Your Own

A feast for the eyes and taste buds - Alaska's freshest produce! Wasilla farmers market is held every Wednesday at the west end of the Iditapark complex. Palmer's Friday Flings market runs every Friday from late May to the end of August, across from the Palmer Visitors Center. Visit [alaskavisit.com](http://alaskavisit.com) for market and u-pick farm locations and hours.

### Alaska-sized veggies

Imagine a 138-pound giant cabbage, a 20-pound cucumber or a 65-pound cantaloupe. Amazing! These are just a few of the world records set at the Alaska State Fair. See the real thing as the huge veggies are weighed-in at Fair in late August. World records are routinely broken for all types of vegetables.



## Glacier Country Adventures

Glenn Highway National Scenic Byway	1	One of three national scenic byways in Alaska.
Reflections Lake & Palmer Hay Flats Game Refuge	2	Easy hike around the lake; moose and migratory bird views.
Knik Glacier & Knik River Valley	3	Try a boat ride, helicopter trip, ATV adventure or airplane flight over the glacier. Just an hour from Anchorage.
Alaska State Fair	4	Late August through Labor Day. Giant Cabbage Weigh-off and other giant vegetable displays, food, entertainment, fireworks and more.
Palmer Golf Course	5	Fore! Palmer Golf Course boasts mountain views at affordable rates.
Palmer Visitor Information Center Museum of History and Art	6	Great starting point for visitor information, Colony history, gardens and guided tours.
Musk Ox Farm and Reindeer Farm	7	See prehistoric animals on guided tours through the farm, museum and gift shop. These farms are a few miles apart, but worth the trip to see both.
Alpine Historical Park	8	Learn about the area's coal mining history, and the Ahtna Athabascan culture. Located at Mile 61.6 of the Glenn Hwy.
Raft the Matanuska or Knik Rivers	9	Guided Class IV whitewater rafting or leisure floats on scenic stretches.
Matanuska Glacier	10	Mile 101, Glenn Hwy. Drive right up to Alaska's largest road-accessible glacier. Easy guided treks and ice climbing.
Lake Louise	11	Excellent lake fishing, winter recreation and hiking opportunities. Off the Glenn Hwy. at Mile 159.8.

## Don't miss the Alaska State Fair

Alaska's largest event, the Alaska State Fair, takes place in Palmer every August to early September. It's 12 days of fun, food and excitement, and there is something for every visitor.

The fair ends on Labor Day and starts 12 days prior, and is the best place to see giant vegetables for which the Palmer area is so famous. There are "weigh-off" competitions for pumpkins and cabbages at the fair, and they bring them in on giant pallets to be weighed in an arena, in front of the audience. Pumpkins weighing more than 2,000 pounds have been entered, and the world record for cabbages stands at 138-pounds.

In addition to the giant vegetables, the Alaska State Fair features numerous exhibits, cultural celebrations, concerts, live performances and much more – you'll want to plan to stay an extra day to take it all in.

## Discover Knik River Valley

The Knik River Valley is a local's favorite! It's a scenic, secluded valley nestled up against the Chugach Mountains, just a short drive from downtown Palmer. This hidden gem is an adventure seeker's delight. It features everything you dreamed Alaska would be – tall mountain peaks, wide open spaces, wilderness, rivers, glaciers and wildlife. The Knik River Valley is located off the Old Glenn Highway, with Knik River Road providing access to trails, fishing and spectacular views.

Knik Glacier is the closest glacier to Anchorage, Alaska's largest city, just an hour to the north. There are many ways to experience Knik Glacier – on a guided ATV trip, helicopter tours including dog mushing adventures and even boat tours to the glacier.

Eklutna Tailrace is one of the Mat-Su Valley's most popular fishing areas for all species of salmon. It typically gets the earliest run of fish in the summer. It has ample parking, and you can walk to the fishing hole with ease.

Knik River Road is a popular place to catch a glimpse of moose, as the large animals typically hang out in the many swampy areas along the route. Black bears are often spotted in this Valley as well. Don't forget your camera!

### Palmer

#### Apartment/Cabin/Chalet Rentals

**Aurora Guesthouse** ◆◆  
8086 Timb Circle, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 746-4181 info@cateralaska.com

#### Attraction or Event

**Alaska Horse Adventures** ◆◆  
18810 E Walling Road, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 229-4445 akhorseadventures@gmail.com



**Alaska State Fair** ●  
2075 Glenn Highway, Palmer, AK 99645  
(800) 850-3247 (907) 745-4827 info@alaskastatefair.org  
www.alaskastatefair.org  
The Alaska State Fair is a non-stop, 12-day party for all Alaskans, with nightly concerts featuring some of the nation's hottest entertainers, world-famous, record-breaking giant vegetables, menus overflowing with the freshest Alaska Grown ingredients, shopping for unique, only-in-Alaska arts and crafts, and lots of attractions free with Fair admission!

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**Palmer Museum of History and Art & Visitor Center**  
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(907) 746-7668 vic@palmermuseum.org

**Pioneer Peak Farm**  
4350 S. Bodenbug Loop, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 745-4511 info@ppfarm.net

### Backcountry Adventures

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**Alaska Sundog Guiding**  
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(907) 570-4705 aksdguiding@gmail.com

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### Bed & Breakfast/Inn

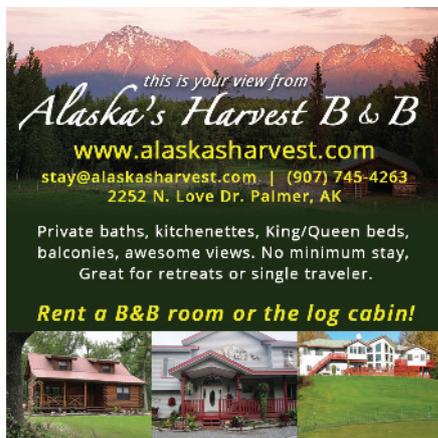


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www.cateralaska.com

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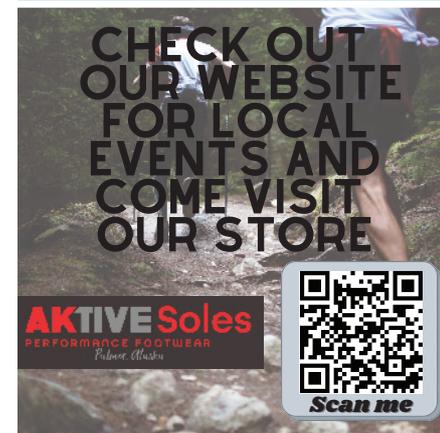
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**Sutton**

**Attraction or Event**

**Alpine Historical Park**  
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[www.alpinehistoricalpark.org](http://www.alpinehistoricalpark.org)

**Chickaloon**

**Visitor Center/Chamber/Gov't Agency**

**Chickaloon Village Traditional Council**  
PO Box 1105, Chickaloon, AK 99674  
(907) 745-0749 [cvaradmin@chickaloon-nsn.gov](mailto:cvaradmin@chickaloon-nsn.gov)  
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## Matanuska Glacier Area

### Attraction or Event

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### Bed & Breakfast/Inn



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Knik Glacier

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[www.sheepmountainair.com](http://www.sheepmountainair.com)  
Mile 113.5 Glenn Highway

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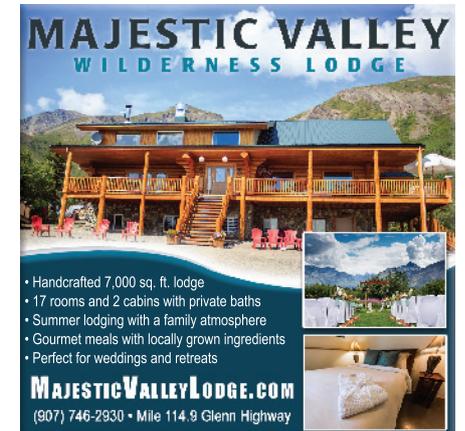


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[www.majesticvalleylodge.com](http://www.majesticvalleylodge.com)  
Handcrafted log lodge at the base of the Talkeetna and Chugach mountains offers gourmet meals, cabins and rooms with private baths and spectacular views, hiking trails, wildlife viewing, high speed internet and TV.

### Lake Louise

### Wilderness Lodge



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[www.lakelouiselodge.com](http://www.lakelouiselodge.com)

**Lake Louise Lodge**  
25600 Lake Louise Road, Mile 16.1, Glennallen, AK 99588  
(907) 822-3311 [LLL@alaska.net](mailto:LLL@alaska.net)



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## Gold Rush Country



Hatcher Pass

*"Hatcher Pass is Alaska's finest backcountry playground, with granite mountains, glacial-carved valleys and alpine vegetation. It is a sight to behold."*

### Hatcher Pass

Just 1.5 hours from Anchorage, Hatcher Pass is a locals' favorite. The area is home to Independence Mine State Historical Park, but also features a wealth of year-round multi-use trails and limitless alpine terrain. Hike, bike or snowmobile. Some hot spots include Reed Lakes, Craigie Creek, Gold Mint and Gold Cord trails. The area offers world-class hiking with breathtaking views of the valley below. With the headwaters of the Little Susitna River originating here, avid kayakers will find the excitement of Class V whitewater appealing.

Winter sports enthusiasts flock to Hatcher Pass. The winter of 2020-21 featured the inaugural season at Skeetawk, the Mat-Su Valley's first-ever lift access downhill skiing area, and the area continues to expand. The Government Peak Recreation Area, at the base of Hatcher Pass, offers 6.5 kilometers of Nordic skiing trails designed by a former Olympian. Snowmobiling is permitted in designated areas and is very popular west of the pass.

## Where to go; What to do



**Pick blueberries in the alpine fields** or photograph spectacular wildflowers. Berry picking is at its peak in late summer and early fall.

**Deep snow and treeless slopes** provide perfect terrain for backcountry winter enthusiasts on both sides of Hatcher Pass. The northern lights are best viewed here.

**Explore abandoned buildings** and machinery from a 200-worker camp and gold mining operation, one of Alaska's biggest gold producers until World War II.



### Independence Mine

Once a bustling mining camp, Independence Mine is now on the National Register of Historic Places. You can wander amid the preserved ruins. Independence Mine covers 271 acres and includes restored structures and interpretive displays connected by easily accessible, paved walking paths. Several historic buildings are open to the public, and daily guided tours of the park area and gold panning demonstrations are available from June through September.

### Local Tip - Vibrant Microbrewery Scene

The Mat-Su Valley has a growing and bustling microbrewery scene, from Palmer to Talkeetna. Many of our breweries offer tours and tastings, along with food trucks throughout the summer. Denali Brewing Company in Talkeetna is one of the largest – and most remote – breweries in Alaska.

### Gold Fever!

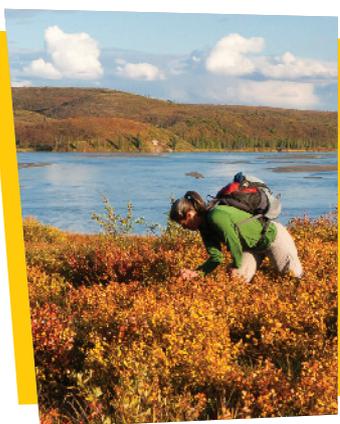
Gold played a pivotal role in establishing many of Alaska's communities, including Hatcher Pass. One of the first discoveries in the Mat-Su happened in 1896 by Robert Lee Hatcher. In 1941, with 83 mining claims, the Alaska-Pacific Consolidated Mining Co. was the largest producer in the mining district, employing more than 200 workers, opening nearly a dozen miles of tunnels, and producing more than 34,000 ounces of gold. Today you can catch a glimpse of what mining was like at the Independence Mine State Historical Park located in Hatcher Pass. Grab your gold pan and see if you have the same luck.





## Gold Country Adventures

Little Susitna River	1	Along Hatcher Pass Road from Mile 7-15. Watch for wildlife and pan for gold.
Archangel Valley/Reed Lakes	2	Mile 16 Hatcher Pass Road. Hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing and winter sports.
Lodges	3	Premium meals, lodging, seasonal amenities, event venues.
Independence Mine State Historical Park	4	Gold! Mile 18 Hatcher Pass Road. Open daily June through Sept. Guided tours available in the summer.
Summit Lake Recreation Area	5	Mile 19 Hatcher Pass Road. Berry picking, ridgetop hiking. Pass road opens around July 4th until first snow.
Summer Recreation		Hiking, berry picking, recreational gold panning, mountain biking.
Winter Recreation		Cross-country and backcountry skiing, Skeetawk downhill ski area, Government Peak Nordic trails, sledding.



### Local Tip - Beautiful Berries

The Mat-Su Valley is a popular place to pick wild berries toward the end of summer. Blueberries and cranberries are among the most popular, and can be found throughout the region. Hatcher Pass is one of the most popular spots to pick berries – when in season, you’ll often find people lining the hillsides carrying buckets as they pick berries. Remember that animals also like berries, so be bear aware when picking!



### Local Tip - Drive over Hatcher Pass

One of the most gorgeous drives in all of Alaska connects the Wasilla/Palmer side of Hatcher Pass to Willow. This road is unpaved, and opens for traffic around the Fourth of July. In late summer, take this drive and stop to pick fresh blueberries while enjoying amazing views. Willow Creek runs alongside the road for part of the trip.

#### Hatcher Pass Area

##### Apartment/Cabin/Chalet Rentals

**Blue Mountain Chalet** ●❖  
8680 E Blue Mountain Lane, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 315-8924 bluemtnchaletak@gmail.com  
Located close to Turner’s Corner.

##### Attraction or Event

**Independence Mine State Historical Park** ●  
(907) 278-3572 reservations@salmonberrytours.com  
www.salmonberrytours.com  
23264 Gold Cord Road, Palmer AK 99645

##### Backcountry Adventures



**Skeetawk Alpine Ski Area** ●❖  
PO Box 924, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 746-7277 info@skeetawk.com  
Skeetawk Ski Area is located at mi 10.6 of Palmer-Fishhook Road in the beautiful Hatcher Pass region outside of Palmer. Our new triple-chairlift whisks you to the top of nine groomed trails with access to the backcountry. Don’t hesitate to visit in summer as well for the miles of trails, wildflowers, blueberries, wildlife and vistas. Find out more at skeetawk.com!

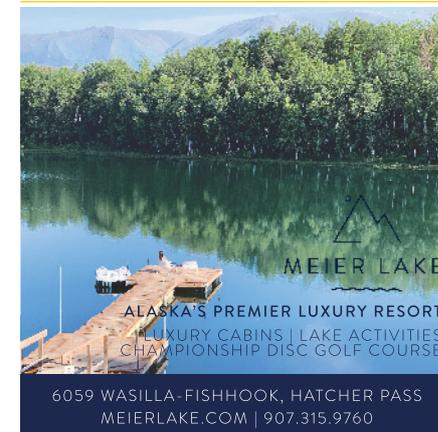
#### Cabin/Vacation Home

**Alaska’s Caribou Cabins** ●❖  
PO Box 378, Palmer, AK 99645  
(888) 408-2246 (907) 746-6881



**Hatcher Pass Cabins** ●❖  
9000 N. Palmer-Fishhook Road, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 745-6788 stay@hpcabins.com

#### Hotel/Motel/Resort



**Meier Lake** ●❖  
6059 Wasilla Fishhook Road, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 315-9760 info@meierlake.com  
Meier Lake is a former summer camp, newly renovated into a lux resort. Tucked away in Hatcher Pass, it is a perfect base camp for Alaskan adventures! For more info, visit meierlake.com.

HATCHER PASS AREA



## Lake Country



Meier Lake

*"Between stands of birch, aspen and spruce, scores of glacier-carved lakes dominate the region. If water is your element, then Lake Country is your destination."*

### Wasilla

Nestled between Lake Lucille and Wasilla Lake, Wasilla is a bustling community that is home to the world-famous Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race headquarters.

Wasilla is the largest city in the Mat-Su Valley and is a hub of commerce, as a variety of national and local retailers can be found. Fresh produce is available weekly at a farmers market.

Wasilla was originally founded to be a supply crossroads for gold mines at Willow Creek Mining District. The Alaska Railroad built lines through the town to Fairbanks in 1917, providing an immediate "boom" to the area. Today, Wasilla remains one of the fastest-growing communities in Alaska.



### Local Tip - Birch syrup capital

With birch trees everywhere, the Mat-Su Valley is one of the world's leading producers of birch syrup. The birch syrup is used in everything from candies to soaps. It takes up to 110 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of syrup. The sap is harvested in the spring when the snow starts to melt. In Talkeetna, you can tour a birch syrup production facility. Take home a piece of the Mat-Su Valley with a box of birch caramels

### Local Tip - Lake Fishing



Within an hour's drive of Palmer and Wasilla, you'll find more than 80 lakes that offer rainbow trout, pike and landlocked silver salmon. Within six minutes you can hop to new lakes and catch a different experience: semi-remote lakes, hike-in lakes, drive-to lakes. With this kind of opportunity, the Mat-Su is known as the Stillwater Fishing Capital of Alaska! Of course, true fishermen and women not only enjoy warm summer days, but return for winter ice fishing. Wet your line and get hooked in the Mat-Su. Many lakes are stocked by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, giving you great odds of hooking into a fish.



### Big Lake

With 67 miles of shoreline, the size of this lake is downright remarkable. Big Lake is a local favorite because of its many recreational opportunities, both in summer and winter. Boating, fishing and riding personal watercraft highlight summer activities. In the winter, the frozen lake allows for Alaska activities such as snowmobiling, dog mushing and cross-country skiing. Terrific views north, east and west toward the towering Alaska and Talkeetna ranges abound. Camp under the midnight sun or stay and dine at one of several area lodges and bed-and-breakfasts.

### Houston

Located on the banks of the Little Susitna River along the Parks Highway, this colorful town offers a gentle river to float with great salmon fishing. In the winter, come back and give a snowmobile or sled dog tour a go to feel the crisp air as you zip through the countryside blanketed with pristine snow.

## Where to go; What to do



**Learn about the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race** and take a dog sled ride at Iditarod Trail Headquarters.

**Step back in time at the Wasilla Museum**, where some of the original townsite has been restored.

**The Museum of Alaska Transportation & Industry** is filled with exhibits, planes, railroad cars and vintage automobiles.



## Lake Country Adventures

Wasilla Area Lakes	1	Fish, ride personal watercraft and bird-watch at Lake Lucille, Wasilla Lake and more just off the Parks Hwy.
Wasilla Museum	2	Variety of exhibits showcasing the area's trading post history and original town buildings. Self-guided tours available.
Iditarod Headquarters	3	Mile 2.2 Knik-Goose Bay Rd. Museum, gift shop, summer dog sled rides.
Museum of Alaska Transportation & Industry	4	Home to Alaska's transportation and industrial relics. Airplanes, trains, steam engines and more.
Big Lake	5	Haven for boating and snowmobiling - year-round recreation. Campgrounds and lodging available.
Settlers Bay Golf Course	6	Tee off under the Midnight Sun, with fantastic views of the Chugach Mountains and the best putting greens in Alaska.
Knik Museum & Townsite	7	Mile 13.9 Knik-Goose Bay Rd. Built in 1910, is now a museum and holds the Musher's Hall of Fame.
Little Su River & Lakes	8	Excellent salmon fishing in the summer and ice fishing in the winter.
Susitna River Drainage	9	Salmon and trout fishing. Guided fishing trips available. Canoeing and camping.



### Local Tip - Want to go hiking but not sure where?

Download the free OuterSpatial app for your smartphone and choose "Alaska." Hundreds of Mat-Su Valley trail maps are available, including directions and other important information.

## Wasilla

### Attraction or Event

**Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race** ●❖  
2100 S. Knik-Goose Bay Rd, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-5155 x-108

**Museum of Alaska Transportation & Industry** ●  
3800 W. Museum Drive, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-1211 [mati@mtaonline.net](mailto:mati@mtaonline.net)  
[www.museumofalaska.org](http://www.museumofalaska.org)

**Wasilla Museum & Visitor Center** ●❖  
391 N. Main Street, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 373-9071 [museum@ci.wasilla.ak.us](mailto:museum@ci.wasilla.ak.us)  
[www.cityofwasilla.com/museum](http://www.cityofwasilla.com/museum)  
The Wasilla Museum and Visitor Center uses stories and imagination to foster community. Experience local history and culture with us. Open Tuesdays - Fridays from 10 am to 3 pm.

**Wasilla-Knik Historical Society** ●❖  
300 N. Boundary Street, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-7755 [wksociety@yahoo.com](mailto:wksociety@yahoo.com)

### Bed & Breakfast/Inn

**Alaska's Lake Lucille Bed & Breakfast** ●❖  
South shore of Lake Lucille, Wasilla, AK 99687  
(888) 353-0352 (907) 357-0352

**Lady Gray Bed & Breakfast** ●❖  
1151 E. Glenwood Ave., Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 355-8454 [ladygray@mtaonline.net](mailto:ladygray@mtaonline.net)  
[www.ladygraybnb.com](http://www.ladygraybnb.com)

**Pioneer Ridge B&B Inn** ●  
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(907) 376-7472 [info@pioneeridge.com](mailto:info@pioneeridge.com)  
Renovated from a former cattle barn, this 5-room/1-suite bed and breakfast offers early Alaska memorabilia and a full hot breakfast for your enjoyment. Reserve at [www.pioneeridge.com](http://www.pioneeridge.com).

**The Gathering Place** ●❖  
5159 S. Snowshoe Pkwy, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 315-6150 [thegatheringplace2b@gmail.com](mailto:thegatheringplace2b@gmail.com)

### Brewery

**The Last Frontier Brewing Company** ●❖  
238 N Boundary Street, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 357-7200 [LFBrew58@gmail.com](mailto:LFBrew58@gmail.com)

### Business Services

**Tegeler & Associates, CPA** ●❖  
2801 E Palmer-Wasilla Hwy Ste B, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-4925 [wes@tegelercpa.com](mailto:wes@tegelercpa.com)

### Cabin/Vacation Home

**Alaskan Hillside Cabins** ●❖  
PO Box 871748, Wasilla, AK 99687  
(907) 376-4912

### Campground/RV Park

**Big Bear Campground & RV Park** ●  
2010 S. Church Street, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 745-7445 [bigbear@mtaonline.net](mailto:bigbear@mtaonline.net)



**Settlers Bay Golf Course** ●  
7307 S Frontier Dr, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-5466 [customerservice@settlersbay.com](mailto:customerservice@settlersbay.com)



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## Dining

**E Lu Fa** ●❖  
1875 E Palmer-Wasilla Hwy, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 357-1368



**Evangelo's Restaurant** ●❖  
PO Box 875609, Wasilla, AK 99687  
(907) 376-1249

**Everett's Dining • Bar • Bistro** ●❖  
1850 E Bogard Road, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 357-5000 [info@mat-suresort.com](mailto:info@mat-suresort.com)

**Locals Pub & Pizza** ●❖  
3100 E Parks Hwy, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 357-3100

**Settlers Bay Lodge** ●❖  
PO Box 877869, Wasilla, AK 99687  
(907) 357-5678 [contact@settlersbaylodge.com](mailto:contact@settlersbaylodge.com)  
[www.settlersbaylodge.com](http://www.settlersbaylodge.com)



**The Albatross @ Settlers Bay Golf Course** ●  
7307 S Frontier Dr, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-5833 [customerservice@settlersbay.com](mailto:customerservice@settlersbay.com)

**The Chophouse at Lake Lucille** ●❖  
1300 W Lake Lucille Drive, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 373-1776



**The Grape Tap** ●❖  
322 N. Boundary St., Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-8466 [grapetapak@gmail.com](mailto:grapetapak@gmail.com)

**The Grill** ●❖  
2900 E. Parks Highway, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 352-1777 [thegrillgv@gmail.com](mailto:thegrillgv@gmail.com)

### Entertainment

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(907) 770-RACE (7223) [wasilla@extremefuncenters.com](mailto:wasilla@extremefuncenters.com)  
[www.extremefuncenters.com](http://www.extremefuncenters.com)  
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## Fishing

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(907) 748-0095 infoalaskachinookcharters@gmail.com

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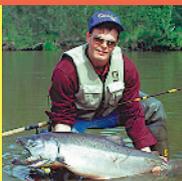


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[www.deshka.com](http://www.deshka.com)

**Drill Team 6 Fishing Excursions, LLC**  
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(907) 306-7851 highway3angler@gmail.com  
[www.highway3angler.com](http://www.highway3angler.com)

## Flightseeing

**Neacola Mountain Air**  
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## Hotel/Motel/Resort

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**Best Western Lake Lucille Inn**  
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(866) 710-7666 (907) 352-1700 [grandview@ak.net](mailto:grandview@ak.net)

**Mat-Su Resort**  
1850 E. Bogard Road, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 357-5000 [info@mat-suresort.com](mailto:info@mat-suresort.com)

## Outfitters/Galleries/Gift Shops

**Gold Rush Jewelers**  
212 N. Boundary Street, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(800) 770-3650 (907) 376-4912

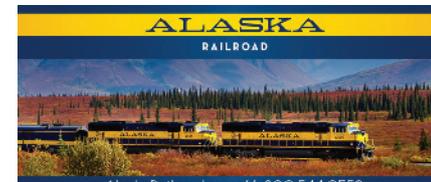
**Sylvia's QUILT DEPOT**  
[www.sylviasquiltdepot.com](http://www.sylviasquiltdepot.com)



**Sylvia's Quilt Depot**  
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(907) 376-6468 [Sylvia@sylviasquiltdepot.com](mailto:Sylvia@sylviasquiltdepot.com)  
[www.sylviasquiltdepot.com](http://www.sylviasquiltdepot.com)

## Rail

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[AlaskaRailroad.com](http://AlaskaRailroad.com) // 800.544.0552

**Alaska Railroad**  
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## Visitor Center/Chamber/Gov't Agency

**City of Wasilla**  
290 E. Herning Avenue, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 373-9055 [cityofwasilla@ci.wasilla.ak.us](mailto:cityofwasilla@ci.wasilla.ak.us)  
Wasilla Public Library, Wasilla Museum, Menard Sports & Events Center, eight community parks, small craft airport. The ideal community to work, live and raise a family!

**Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce**  
1155 E Depot Road, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-1299 [contact@wasillachamber.org](mailto:contact@wasillachamber.org)

**Wasilla Museum & Visitor Center**  
391 N. Main Street, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 373-9071 [museum@ci.wasilla.ak.us](mailto:museum@ci.wasilla.ak.us)  
[www.cityofwasilla.com/museum](http://www.cityofwasilla.com/museum)  
The Wasilla Museum and Visitor Center uses stories and imagination to foster community. Experience local history and culture with us. Open Tuesdays - Fridays from 10 am to 3 pm.

## Wilderness Lodge

**Deshka Landing Charters & Lodge**  
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(907) 495-5873 [jim@deshka.com](mailto:jim@deshka.com)  
[www.deshka.com](http://www.deshka.com)

## Big Lake

### Cabin/Vacation Home

**Alaska Sunset View Resort**  
PO Box 521402, Big Lake, AK 99652  
(907) 892-8885 [stay@alaskasunsetviewresort.com](mailto:stay@alaskasunsetviewresort.com)  
[www.alaskasunsetviewresort.com](http://www.alaskasunsetviewresort.com)  
5322 S. Big Lake Road

## Dining

**Shirley's End of the Road Cafe**  
Big Lake, AK 99652 (907) 892-2837  
[shirleyinman62@gmail.com](mailto:shirleyinman62@gmail.com)

## Dog Sledding

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## Denali Country



Denali State Park

*"The highest point in North America, Denali – elevation 20,310' – dominates the region south of Denali National Park."*

## Towering peaks, abundant wildlife, iconic towns

### Willow

The first grand views of Denali are along the Parks Highway (Hwy. 3) on the way to Willow. While you're there, take advantage of the campgrounds, fishing streams, snowmobile trails and dog mushing tours (yes, even in the summer). In Willow, the Deshka River, Willow Creek and Little Willow Creek provide world-class fishing for salmon, rainbow trout, grayling and Dolly Varden. Guided fishing on the remote Deshka River also is a great way to see Alaska wildlife. Paddle the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area canoe trail and spend a night in a public-use cabin. This area is very popular among locals for the many outdoor recreational opportunities.



### Talkeetna

Talkeetna has a unique vibe all its own. This small town is the staging area for more than 1,000 climbers who attempt to climb Denali each spring. On average, only 50 percent of them make the summit. In May and June, you can spot climbers milling around town. The first successful summit of Denali was June 7, 1913 by a party led by Hudson Stuck. Alaska Native Walter Harper became the first to reach the summit in that party, and the Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station bears his name today. They ascended via the Muldrow Glacier route, which is still a popular route. Located at the confluence of three major rivers, Talkeetna keeps its mining history alive with renovated miners' cabins used as lodging, shops and restaurants. Here you'll find one of Alaska's top breweries, a number of great restaurants and shops that sell goods made by local artists.

The rivers also lend to a multitude of activities such as guided river rafting, boat tours and sport fishing. The Alaska Railroad stops daily in the summer and weekly in winter. Spend a day perusing the many shops that feature local artisans. Flightseeing trips around Denali are spectacular, and depart from Talkeetna daily.

### Trapper Creek/Petersville

Petersville Road extends nearly 35 miles from Trapper Creek into the Dutch Hills, offering spectacular views of Denali. The rugged, scenic gravel road is ideal for mountain biking or snowmobiling in the winter. (In the summer, 4-wheel drive vehicles are recommended after first 10 miles.)

### Denali State Park

Adjacent to Denali National Park, this 325,000-acre wildland boasts stunning and accessible recreational opportunities. Whether camping here or just stopping for the view, don't miss this gem of the Alaska State Parks system. Camp, canoe and explore amidst stunning views of Denali from the ridgeline or from Byers Lake. While Denali National Park & Preserve offers the wilderness and wildlife experience, don't miss Denali State Park for the ultimate scenic Denali experience. Kesugi Ken Campground is located at Mile 135.4 Parks Highway (Hwy. 3) and has an easy .5-mile hike to a spectacular Denali overlook. With RV and tent sites as well as an interpretive center and public-use cabins, the campground is a popular spot for those looking for peace and quiet away from the crowds.



## Where to go; What to do



**Rent a kayak or canoe** on Byers Lake and paddle to schools of spawning red salmon. Watch for swans, loons and feeding bears.

**Take a flightseeing trip** around Denali, and land on a glacier high in the Alaska Range. Most visitors rank this as their most impressive Alaska experience.

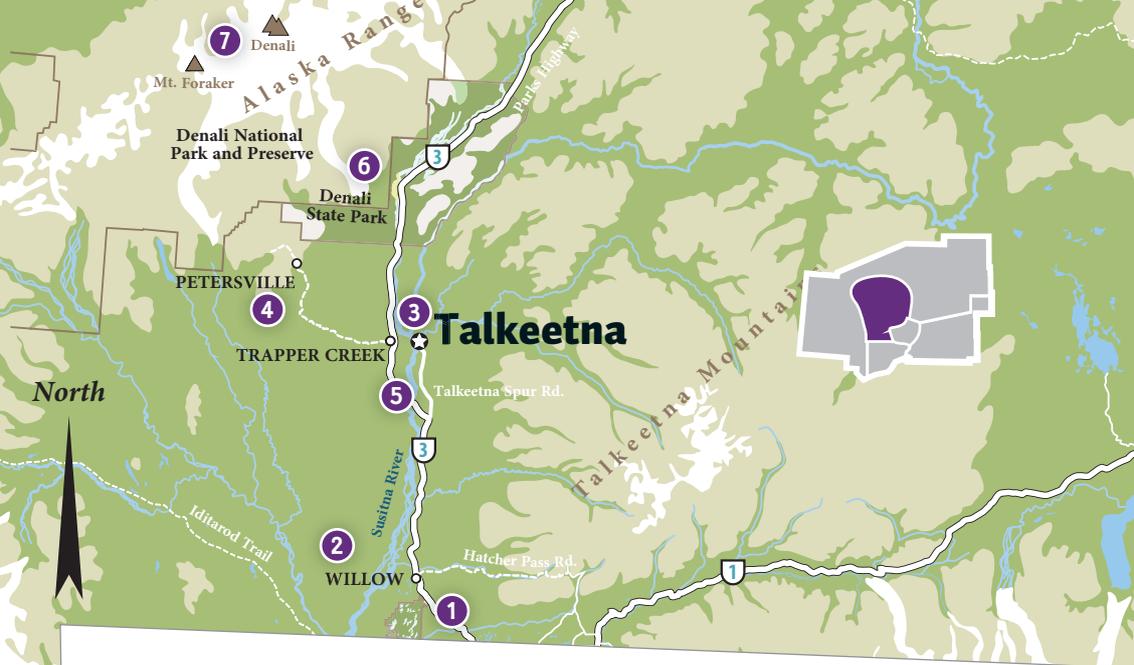
**Explore the rivers** with a jet boat or rafting trip.

**Feast on the Alaska-sized breakfast** at the local roadhouse – a favorite among returning climbers.

**Come back this winter** for the restart of the world-famous Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

**Learn about the area's Denali climbing history** at the Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station.





## Denali Country Adventures

Nancy Lake Recreation Area	1	Mile 67.2 Parks Hwy. 130 interconnected lakes. Lynx Lake Canoe Trail. Link to canoe rental information at <a href="http://www.alaskavisit.com">www.alaskavisit.com</a>
Dog Sledding	2	Mush your own team of huskies, ride the runners or sit in the sled.
Talkeetna Historic District	3	Historic walking tour – museum, log cabins, school, roadhouse, inn and other mining-era structures dating to 1916. Food, tours, lodging and shopping. Year-round Alaska Railroad stop.
Petersville Road	4	Mile 114.8 Parks Hwy. 35-mile road has great biking, hiking, and fishing.
Susitna, Chulitna, Talkeetna Rivers	5	Boat, camp, fish and explore these glacial rivers. Guided tours, rafting and fishing available.
Denali State Park	6	See Denali and visit the Veterans Memorial, or stay at the Kesugi Ken Campground. Camping, kayaking, fishing and nature walks. Access to Kesugi and Curry Ridge trailheads.
Denali	7	Flightsee the Alaska Range and view glaciers, sheer rock faces, rivers and wildlife.

### Willow

#### Attraction or Event

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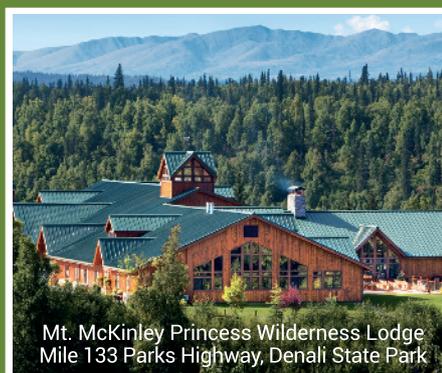
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(907) 683-0683 denali\_tours@temscoair.com

#### Hotel/Motel/Resort



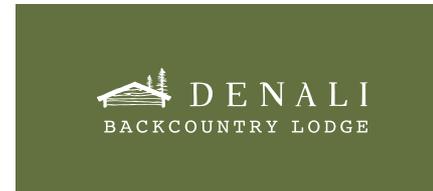
##### Alaska Tour & Travel

3900 Arctic Blvd Suite 304, Anchorage, AK 99503  
(800) 208-0200 (907) 245-0200 experts@alaskatravel.com  
Book Denali National Park wilderness lodges, cabins, hotels PLUS tours and transportation in one place. Specializing in custom vacations, convenient planning, great value. Let an Alaskan plan your Alaska vacation.



##### Best Western Lake Lucille Inn

1300 W. Lake Lucille Dr., Wasilla, AK 99654  
(800) 897-1776 (907) 373-1776  
bestwesternlakelucilleinn@outlook.com  
www.BestWestern.com/LakeLucilleInn  
Superb location on beautiful Lake Lucille with breathtaking views of the Chugach Mountains. Complimentary hot breakfast bar, free wifi and fitness room. See our ad on page 30.



##### Denali Backcountry Lodge

509 W 4th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501  
(800) 808-8068 info@denalibackcountrylodge.com  
www.denalibackcountrylodge.com  
Escape to rustic comfort in your own private cabin in Kantishna, in the heartland of Denali National Park and Preserve. Enjoy warm Alaskan hospitality and all the comforts of an all-inclusive stay, with ample opportunity to explore the ruggedly wondrous backcountry with guided hikes, gold panning, spa services and more.

##### Denali Bluffs Hotel

238.4 Parks Highway, Denali, AK 99755  
(855) 683-8600 (907) 683-7000  
reservations@denalialaska.com  
Nestled on the slopes of Sugarloaf Mountain, with views of Denali National Park! Enjoy a hearty meal at Mountaineer Grill and Bar or tasty treats at the Perky Moose Cafe. Featuring cozy, cabin like rooms or deluxe rooms. All have Wi-Fi, coffee maker and fridge. Tour desk, free shuttle, on-site laundry. Denali Bluffs Hotel and Grande Denali Lodge are only a mile apart from each other.



##### Denali Cabins

509 W 4th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501  
(800) 808-8068 info@denali-cabins.com  
www.denali-cabins.com  
Located in the vibrant landscapes of Denali National Park and Preserve, just eight miles south of the National Park entrance, the Denali Cabins are a favorite retreat among the local Alaskans. With the Prey Bar & Eatery, it's the perfect base camp to embark on all your Denali adventures.

##### Denali Grizzly Bear Resort

PO Box 7, Denali Park, AK 99755  
(866) 583-2696 (907) 683-2696 info@denaligrizzlybear.com  
www.denaligrizzlybear.com

##### Denali Park Village

Mile Post 231 George Parks Highway, Denali, AK 99755  
(800) 276-7234 (907) 683-8900  
denalireservations@aramark.com

##### Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge

Mile Post 238.5 Parks Hwy, Denali National Park, AK 99755  
(800) 426-0500 (907) 683-2282  
www.princesslodges.com  
Located near the park entrance on the banks of the Nenana River, the lodge features an expansive deck with views of the park, shopping, tour desk and shuttle service to the park Visitor Center. Dining options include King Salmon restaurant, Fannie Q's Saloon, Grizzly Burger and Lynx Creek Pizza.

##### Grande Denali Lodge

238 Parks Highway, Denali, AK 99755  
(855) 683-8600 (907) 683-5100  
reservations@denalialaska.com  
Perched on Sugarloaf Mountain travelers can experience panoramic views looking into Denali National Park! Located at the park entrance, the hotel has spacious rooms surrounded by aspen forest featuring Wi-Fi, A/C, fridge. Enjoy award-winning dining at the Alpenglöw Restaurant or cocktails at the Peak Spirits. Tour desk, free shuttle, on-site laundry. Grande Denali Lodge and Denali Bluffs Hotel are only a mile apart from each other.

##### McKinley Chalet Resort

Mile Post 238.9 Parks Hwy, Denali National Park, AK 99755  
(800) 544-0970 (907) 683-6450  
www.westmarkhotels.com  
Less than two miles from the park entrance, the resort offers modern accommodations on the banks of the Nenana River. Amenities include upscale and casual dining options, an espresso bar, fire pits, Music of Denali Dinner Theater, tour desk, and shuttle to the park Visitor Center.

##### Ridgetop Cabins

PO Box 81512, Fairbanks, AK 99708  
(866) 680-2440 (907) 683-2448 ridgetop@mtaonline.net  
www.denaliridgetopcabins.com  
Six private cabins on 80 acres on the north boundary of Denali National Park. Located just 16 miles north of the entrance to Denali National Park, our cabins provide an expectations-exceeding wilderness lodging experience by night and easy access to all that Denali National Park has to offer by day.

#### Rail



##### AlaskaTrain.com

3900 Arctic Blvd Suite 304, Anchorage, AK 99503  
(800) 266-8625 (907) 245-0200 info@AlaskaTrain.com  
Online reservations for Alaska Railroad GoldStar and Adventure Class, plus private dome rail and deluxe motorcoaches. Travel to Denali, Seward, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Talkeetna, Whittier. Book your Whittier/Seward cruise transfers, too!

## Sightseeing/Custom/Package Tours

### Alaska Railroad

PO Box 107500, Anchorage, AK 99510  
(800) 544-0552 (907) 265-2494 reservations@akrr.com  
www.AlaskaRailroad.com

Mile 1.25 Denali National Park Road

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### Alaska Tour & Travel

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(800) 208-0200 (907) 245-0200 experts@alaskatravel.com  
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### Alaska Travel Connections

1125 W Balboa Drive, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 315-3026 info@alaskatravelconnections.com  
www.alaskatravelconnections.com

Are you ready for the trip of a lifetime? Explore our customizable sample itineraries at www.alaskatravelconnections.com and let us help you plan your one-of-a-kind adventure.

### Denali Backcountry Adventure

509 W 4th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501  
(800) 808-8068 info@denalibackcountryadventure.com  
www.denalibackcountryadventure.com/adventure  
Adventure in a day, Denali Backcountry Adventure is a narrated day trip that journeys into the remote and wild Denali highway. Lunch and drinks included. Call to book your adventure.

### Northern Alaska Tour Company

PO Box 82991, Fairbanks, AK 99708  
(800) 474-1986 (907) 474-8600  
adventure@northernalaska.com  
www.northernalaska.com

Experience Denali and Alaska's Arctic by air. Denali Summit Flight: Get a dramatic view of Denali and the surrounding peaks and glaciers as your aircraft climbs to nearly 21,000 feet. Arctic Circle Air Adventure: Cross the Arctic Circle, explore the Brooks Mountain Range and earn an Arctic Circle Certificate.

## Travel Agency/Reservations



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www.AlaskaCollection.com

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Matanuska Glacier

## A Hiker's Paradise

The Mat-Su Valley is a hiker's paradise, with thousands of miles of trails in seemingly every direction. The Mat-Su Valley spans 23,000 square miles, so if hiking in Alaska is your dream, the Mat-Su Valley is the place for you.

No matter which region of the Mat-Su Valley you find yourself in, there are amazing trails. Here are a few of the more popular trails in every region

### Denali Country

- Kesugi Ridge is a very popular multi-day trek for hikers with lots of experience. It has expansive views of Denali, Mount Hunter, Mount Foraker and the rest of the Alaska Range.
- Kesugi Ken Campground at Mile 135 Parks Highway (Hwy. 3) offers an easy hike with great views. The loop is even ADA compliant.
- Talkeetna trails include the popular Talkeetna Lakes that offers an easy hike with great views.

### Lake Country

- Lake Lucille Park has a series of trails ideal for day hikers, located just north of Wasilla.
- Settlers Bay Coastal Park has a series of trails that lead to sweeping views of Cook Inlet. This is the newest trail system in the Mat-Su Valley.
- Scout Ridge Trail is part of the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge and is an easy 1.25-mile loop.

### Glacier Country

- The Butte is located near Palmer and includes a 900-foot vertical hike with a stair system. Once on top, you are treated to 360-degree views of the Matanuska Valley.
- Matanuska Greenbelt is a series of interconnected trails that go from Matanuska Lakes Park to the Crevasse-Moraine trail system.
- Reflections Lake has a 1-mile trail around the lake, along with a wildlife viewing platform where you can spot moose and migratory birds.
- Around Matanuska Glacier, try the Sheep Mountain trail system or the loop at the Matanuska Glacier State Recreation Area.

### Gold Rush Country

- Gold Mint, Gold Cord and Reed Lakes are popular hikes in Hatcher Pass with views of the Matanuska Valley.
- Government Peak Trails are located at the base of Hatcher Pass and have a series of loops that are ideal for mountain biking.
- Independence Mine has paved walkways around an abandoned gold mine. Guided hikes are available.

## Local Tip - Denali State Park

While Denali National Park & Preserve is well known by visitors, locals will tell you that you don't want to miss Denali State Park, which is further south. The views of the Alaska Range and Denali are actually much better in the state park than the national park, and there's a ton of activity – from camping at Kesugi Ken Campground to hiking Kesugi Ridge and paddling at Byers Lake. On a clear day, there's no better view of Denali than from the Denali Viewpoint South pullout at Mile 135 of the Parks Highway.





# Off the Beaten Path



Denali State Park

*"Explore the backcountry, take a drive along the Denali Highway, fly into a remote Alaska lodge, or follow the famous Iditarod Trail into the Heart of Alaska."*



## Exclusively Alaska

With only three highways in an area that encompasses 23,000 square miles, there is a lot of country in the Mat-Su Valley that is off the beaten path. Throughout this untamed wilderness, there are many remote wilderness lodges only accessible by boat or from various air taxi hubs such as Anchorage, Willow and Talkeetna. A short plane ride will transport you to another world of solitude. Enjoy fresh, seasonal food and diverse activities from float trips and berry picking to spa treatments and culinary schools. In the winter, heli-skiing opportunities abound. Spend a day, a night or more off the beaten path in this quintessential Alaska environment.

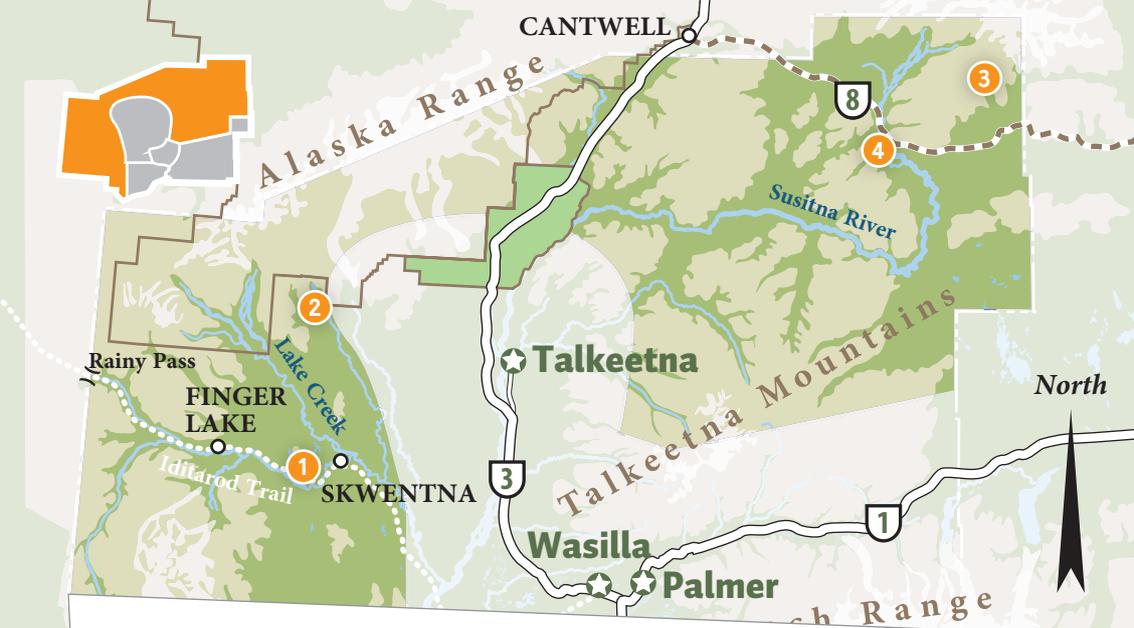
## Where to go; What to do



**Camp, hike, float the rivers,** photograph a wide variety of birds, look for caribou, moose, black and brown bears.

**Dine on seasonal,** Alaska delights served fresh from the river or garden.

Cheer on the leaders of the **Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race** as they pass along the trail heading toward Rainy Pass.



## Adventures Off the Beaten Path

<b>Iditarod Trail</b>	<b>1</b>	Chase the race along trail checkpoints from Skwentna to Rainy Pass. Lodges and operators offer opportunities for getting close to the action.
<b>Fly into Remote Lakes</b>	<b>2</b>	For the ultimate fishing experience. Day trips also available.
<b>Eastern Alaska Range</b>	<b>3</b>	Mount Deborah, Hess and Hayes. Explore the glaciated landscape. Marvel at Pyramid Peak and the Clearwater Mountains.
<b>Denali Highway</b>	<b>4</b>	This rugged road offers stunning views – 136 miles from Paxson to Cantwell, open mid-May through Oct. 1.



## Local Tip - Public-use cabins

There are a number of public-use cabins available for rent through the Alaska State Parks. These remote cabins are rustic but offer a true Alaska experience in the outdoors. Some are walk-in accessible, while others you can rent a canoe to access them. Don't delay, though – they rent up to six months in advance online. [www.alaskastateparks.org](http://www.alaskastateparks.org)

### Off The Beaten Path

#### Cabin/Vacation Home

**Knik River Lodge/Helicopter Tours** ♦  
29979 E Knik River Road, Palmer, AK 99645  
(877) 745-4575 (907) 745-5002 info@knikriverlodge.com  
[www.knikriverlodge.com](http://www.knikriverlodge.com)

#### Wilderness Lodge

**Alaska Adventure Company** ♦  
PO Box 190243, Anchorage, AK 99519  
(877) 753-3474 (907) 733-2051  
concierge@alaskaadventurecompany.com  
[www.alaskaadventurecompany.com](http://www.alaskaadventurecompany.com)  
The Alaska Adventure Company has been offering one-of-a-kind, high quality, inclusive off-grid adventures at our unique properties in the heart of the Alaskan wilderness since 2001. Wilderness Place Lodge is our main lodge we use as base camp for fly fishing, rafting, kayaking, and culinary retreats located 70 miles Northwest of Anchorage, Alaska.



**Caribou Lodge Alaska** ♦  
PO Box 4257, Palmer, AK 99645  
(877) 700-2875 (907) 733-2163 info@cariboulodgealaska.com  
A fly-in remote wilderness lodge located southeast of Talkeetna with unmatched views of Denali. We offer Guided Hiking, Camping, Kayaking, Canoeing, Wildlife Viewing, Northern Lights Viewing, Snowshoeing, and Skiing. Day trips available. Get away from the crowds and come enjoy the Alaska wilderness for an experience of a lifetime.

**Within The Wild Adventure Company** ♦  
PO Box 91419, Anchorage, AK 99509  
(907) 274-2710



# The Rest of Alaska

## Anchorage

### Attraction or Event

#### Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center

Mile 79 Seward Highway, Girdwood, AK 99587  
(907) 783-0058 info@alaskawildlife.org

#### Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center

625 C Street, Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 929-9200 museum@anchagemuseum.org  
www.anchagemuseum.org

The Anchorage Museum, Alaska's largest, tells the multifaceted story of Alaska that weaves together social, cultural, scientific, historic and artistic threads. We also have a Children's Discovery Center, too! Come explore!

### Fishing

#### Drill Team 6 Fishing Excursions, LLC

WWasilla, AK (702) 465-4747  
dt6fishingexcursionsllc@gmail.com  
www.dt6fishingexcursions.com

Year-round guided Alaska fishing excursions. Salmon & lake fishing boat charters. Ice fishing with heated shelters. Gear, bait, tackle & fish processing included in cost. Veteran/1st Responder discounts.

### Flightseeing

#### Alaska Helicopter Tours

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(907) 272-7777 info@alaskahelicoptertours.com  
www.alaskahelicoptertours.com

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#### Rust's Flying Service

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## Hotel/Motel/Resort

#### Alyeska Resort

PO Box 249, Girdwood, AK 99587  
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#### Copper Whale Inn, LLC

440 L Street, Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 258-7999 info@copperwhale.com

### Outfitters/Galleries/Gift Shops

#### Domingmak Musk Ox Producers' Co-Op

604 H Street, Anchorage, AK 99501  
(888) 360-9665 (907) 272-9225 qivut@gci.net

### Sightseeing/Custom/Package Tours

#### Anchorage Trolley Tours

546 W 4th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 276-5603 sales@anchoragetrolley.com  
www.anchoragetrolley.com



#### Greatland Adventures

410 K Street, Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 980-8179 info@greatlandadventures.com



#### Salmon Berry Travel & Tours

515 W 4th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 278-3572 reservations@salmonberrytours.com  
www.salmonberrytours.com

## Travel Agency/Reservations

#### Alaska.org & The Alaska App

PO Box 100519, Anchorage, AK 99510  
(907) 777-7700 yael@alaska.org

### Visitor Center/Chamber/Gov't Agency

#### Anchorage Chamber of Commerce

1016 W. 6th Avenue Suite 303, Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 272-2401 info@anchoragechamber.org

#### Visit Anchorage

524 W. Fourth Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501  
(800) 478-1255 (907) 257-2363 info@anchorage.net  
www.anchorage.net  
Urban comfort. Wild Alaska adventure. Glacier views and the city skyline. Pair moose, bear, bald eagle, and beluga whale sightings with hundreds of miles of trails and Alaska's best hotels, dining, and tax-free shopping. Anchorage is the only place that has it all.

## Eagle River

### Visitor Center/Chamber/Gov't Agency

#### Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 770353, Eagle River, AK 99577  
(907) 694-4702 info@cer.org

## Fairbanks/Interior

### Hotel/Motel/Resort

#### Fountainhead Hotels & Resort

Fairbanks, AK 99701(800) 528-4916 (907) 456-3642  
askus@fountainheadhotels.com

#### Pike's Waterfront Lodge

1850 Hoselton Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709  
(877) 774-2400 (907) 456-4500 info@pikeslodge.com

### Visitor Center/Chamber/Gov't Agency



#### Explore Fairbanks

101 Dunkel St. Suite 111, Fairbanks, AK 99701  
(800) 327-5774 (907) 456-5774 info@explorefairbanks.com  
www.explorefairbanks.com

Be inspired by the light of the aurora borealis. Renew your energy under the midnight sun. Experience the warmth of Fairbanks - Alaska's Golden Heart - the basecamp to Denali, Interior and Arctic Alaska. Call or visit the website to request your free Fairbanks Visitors Guide or Winter Guide.

## Glennallen

### Visitor Center/Chamber/Gov't Agency

#### Copper Valley Visitor Information Center

PO Box 469, Glennallen, AK 99588  
(907) 822-5555 chamber@cvineternet.net

## Kenai Peninsula

### Attraction or Event

#### Alaska SeaLife Center

PO Box 1329, Seward, AK 99664  
(888) 378-2525 (907) 224-6300 visit@alaskasealife.org

## Boat Excursions



#### Kenai Fjords Tours

509 W. 4th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501  
(888) 478-3346 info@kenajfords.com  
www.KenaiFjords.com

Alaska's #1 Wildlife & Glacier Cruise. Explore spectacular scenery, tidewater glaciers and abundant wildlife in Kenai Fjords National Park with local experts. Cruise on custom sightseeing vessels, built for your comfort. Visit our exclusive Fox Island lodge for a free lunch, including prime rib and wild Alaska salmon.



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www.majormarine.com

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### Fishing

#### Drifter's Lodge

PO Box 746, Cooper Landing, AK 99572  
(907) 595-5555 info@drifterslodge.com

### Hotel/Motel/Resort

#### Harbor 360 Hotel

1412 4th Ave, Seward, AK 99664  
(888) 514-8687 (907) 865-6224  
reservations@harbor360hotel.com  
www.harbor360hotel.com

Seward's premier waterfront hotel located on the harbor. Indoor pool and hot tub, free breakfast, walking distance to restaurants and shops. On-site check-in and boarding for glacier and wildlife cruises.



#### Seward Windsong Lodge

509 W. 4th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501  
(800) 808-8068 info@sewardwindsong.com  
www.SewardWindsong.com

Seward's only full-service lodge offers relaxed atmosphere in a stunning glacial river valley. On-site restaurant, Resurrection Roadhouse, features fresh Alaska seafood, gourmet burgers and pizza, numerous drafts and specialty cocktails. Wine Spectator and Trip Advisor awards. Meeting facilities. Complimentary shuttle. Guided hikes to Exit Glacier depart daily from the lobby.

### Visitor Center/Chamber/Gov't Agency

#### Homer Chamber of Commerce

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**Kenai Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center**  
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(907) 283-1991 info@visitkenai.com

### Wilderness Lodge



#### Kenai Fjords Wilderness Lodge

1304 4th Avenue, Seward, AK 99664  
(800) 808-8068 info@kenaifjordslodge.com  
www.kenaifjordslodge.com  
Enjoy Alaska's remote wilderness and unplug from all electronics in your private waterfront cabin. Cruise with Kenai Fjords Tours to Fox Island in Resurrection Bay and explore the ultimate island escape. Kayak, beachcomb or hike while the executive chef prepares gourmet cuisine, and then unwind with a glass of wine.

### Prince William Sound

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www.26glaciers.com  
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##### Stan Stephens Glacier & Wildlife Cruises

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www.stanstephenscruises.com  
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### Visitor Center/Chamber/Gov't Agency

**Greater Whittier Chamber of Commerce**  
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**Valdez Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
PO Box 1603, Valdez, AK 99686  
(907) 835-2984 info@valdezalaska.org  
www.ValdezAlaska.org

### Southeast Alaska

#### Visitor Center/Chamber/Gov't Agency

**Haines Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
Box 530, Haines, AK 99827  
(800) 458-3579 (907) 766-2234 hcvb@haines.ak.us

**Ketchikan Visitors Bureau**  
50 Front St., Ste. 203, Ketchikan, AK 99901  
(800) 770-3300 (907) 225-6166 info@visit-ketchikan.com

**Travel Juneau**  
800 Glacier Ave, Ste 201, Juneau, AK 99801  
(888) 581-2201 (907) 586-2201 info@traveljuneau.com

**Discover Kodiak**  
100 Marine Way, Suite 200, Kodiak, AK 99612  
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**Unalaska/Dutch Harbor Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
PO Box 545, Unalaska, AK 99685  
(907) 581-2612 info@unalaska.org

### Areawide Services

#### Airlines

**Alaska Airlines**  
3600 International Airport Rd., Anchorage, AK 99502  
(800) 252-7522

#### Attraction or Event

**Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation**  
PO Box 652, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 746-8757 info@matsutrails.org  
www.matsutrails.org  
Explore Mat-Su Valley's many trails with the OuterSpatial app on your iPhone or Android!

### Backcountry Adventures



**Alaska ATV Adventures**  
17023 Kantishna Drive, Eagle River, AK 99577  
(907) 694-4294

### Business Services

**Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman**  
5751 E. Mayflower Court, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 352-2250 news@frontiersman.com

**Matanuska Valley Federal Credit Union**  
1020 S. Bailey Street, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 745-4891

### Campground/RV Park

**Alaska Campground Owners Association (ACOA)**  
PO Box 111005, Anchorage, AK 99511  
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alaskacampgrounds@gmail.com  
www.alaskacampgrounds.net

**Lifetime Adventures**  
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### Catering Services

**Alaskan Events & Catering LLC**  
8086 E Timb Circle, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 746-4181 info@cateralaska.com  
cateralaska.com

### Outfitters/Galleries/Gift Shops

**Made in Alaska**  
550 W 7th Avenue, Suite 1650, Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 269-4501 madeinalaska@alaska.gov

### Personal Services

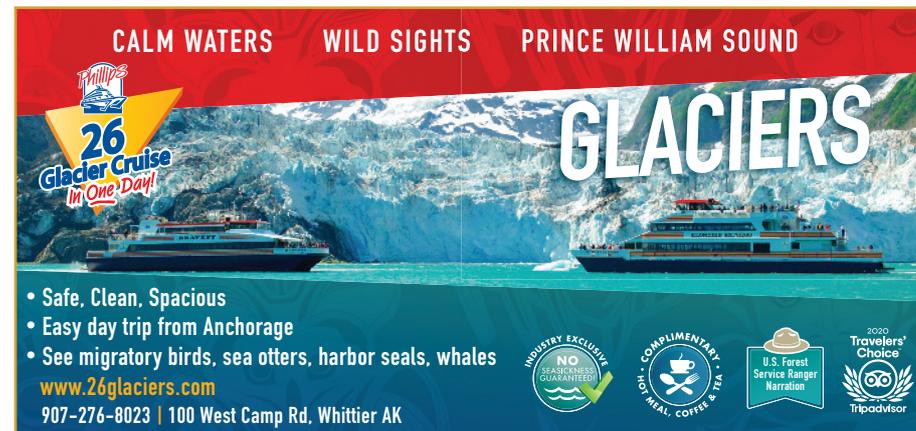
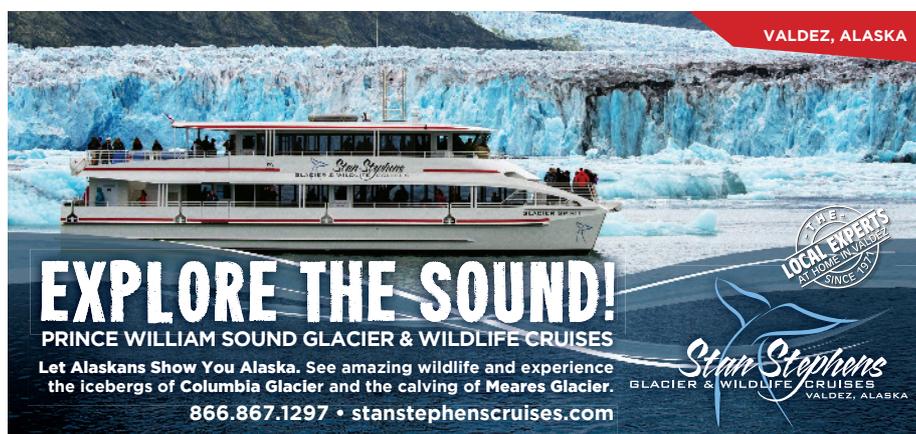
**MTA Solutions**  
1740 S. Chugach Street, Palmer, AK 99645  
(800) 478-3211 (907) 745-3211

### Sightseeing/Custom/Package Tours

**Alaska Adventure Unlimited & Chalets**  
PO Box 871723, Wasilla, AK 99687  
(800) 580-3494 (907) 373-3494  
info@alaskaadventureunlimited.com  
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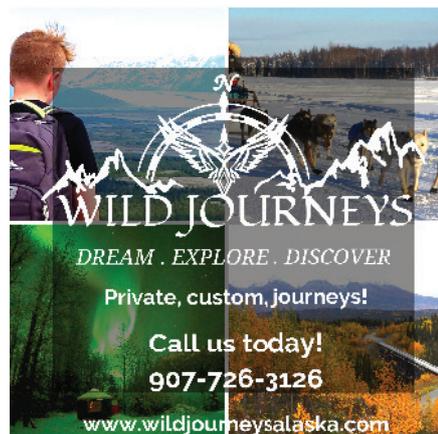
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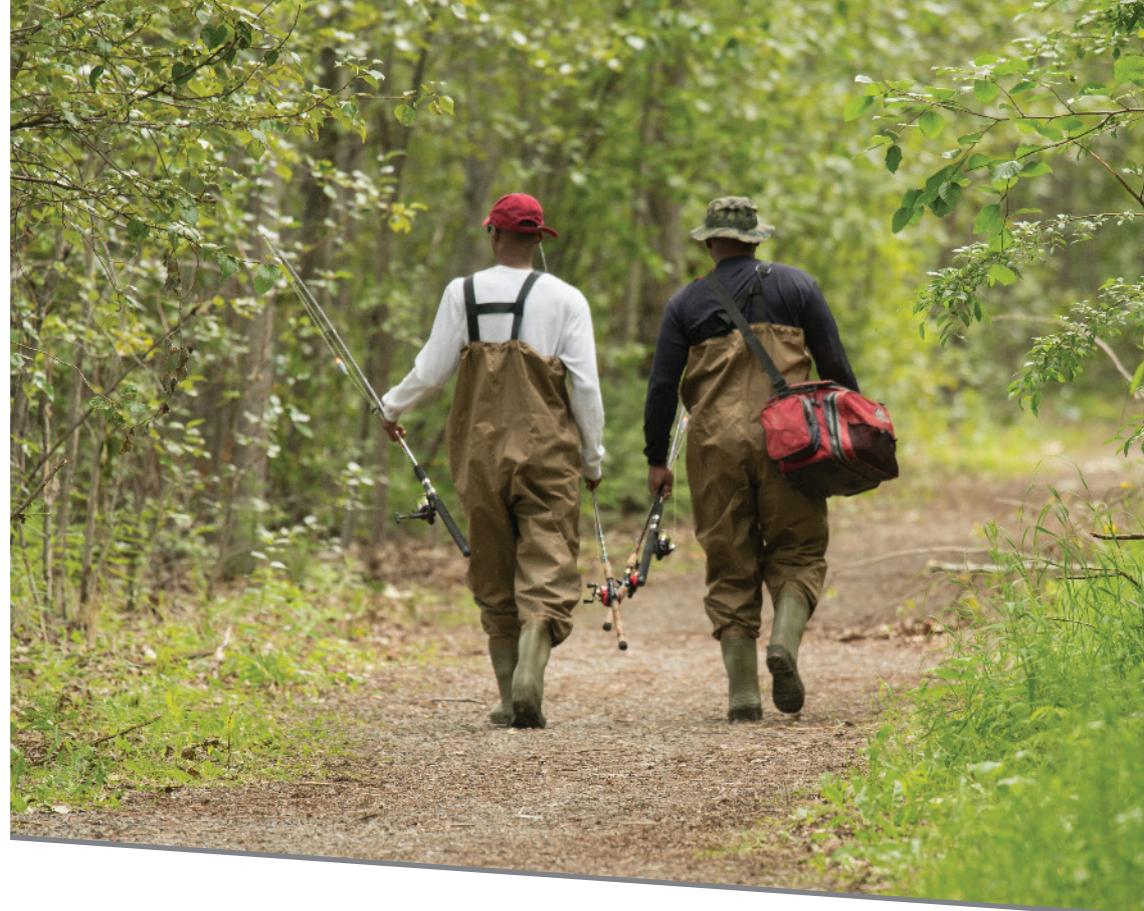
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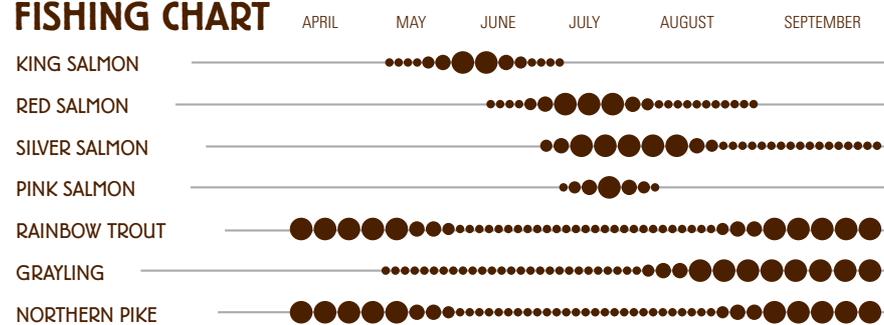
## Get Hooked!

### Mat-Su: Fish-On!

The Mat-Su Valley has several thousand miles of fishable rivers, streams and lakes. Best of all, our fishing is accessible – bank-side off the road, by air taxi to remote spots or contact one of our local expert fishing guides.

The Susitna River drainage has several small creeks and tributaries that are easily accessible via the Parks Highway (Hwy. 3) and feature salmon as well as rainbow trout, grayling and pike. At many of these places, you can walk right up to a fishing hole. Spirited silver salmon run strong in the drainage in mid- to late- summer. In the fall, rainbow trout fishing is exceptional. Make sure you check local regulations before heading out, and purchase a fishing license. Use the chart below to gauge when the fish will be running.

### FISHING CHART



## What to pack

Waders | Tackle Box | Fillet Knife | Fish Story



### Peony Farming

The Mat-Su Valley is Alaska's largest agricultural hub, with bountiful vegetables grown throughout the summer. A new crop is quickly becoming popular in Alaska however – peonies.

The fragrant flowers grow well in the Mat-Su Valley's long, cool growing season, and they bloom around the first week of July, later than they do in the Lower 48. Alaska's peonies are known for their bigger, more saturated blooms than those in the Lower 48. Bright reds, vibrant pinks and crisp white blooms can be found in fields around the Mat-Su Valley.

The flowers are very popular for weddings and particularly in Asia, making Alaska's location and growing season ideal for uses throughout the summer.

Peony farms cultivate the flowers while in the bud stage and place them in cold storage. Once shipped and taken out of cold storage, the flowers bloom throughout the summer. Stop in to a farmer's market in the Mat-Su Valley during the summer for a bouquet of Alaska peonies.

## GLACIER COUNTRY

Alaska Horse Adventures	15
Alaska State Fair	15
Alaska Backcountry Adventure Tours	16
Alaska Knotty Pine Bed & Breakfast	16
Alaska's Harvest Bed & Breakfast	16
Our Alaskan Dream B&B	16
Matanuska Brewing Company	16
Cache Camper Manufacturing Inc.	17
Hatcher Pass Cabins	17
Knik River Lodge	17
Kepler Park	17
Turkey Red	17
Colony Inn	18
Pioneer Motel and Apartments	18
Valley Hotel	18
Musk Ox Farm	19
Aktive Soles Performance Footwear	19
Alaska Farm Tours	19
Palmer Museum of History and Art & Visitor Center	19
Glacier Park	20
Greatland Adventures	20
MICA Guides	20
NOVA River Runners Inc.	20
Alpenglow Luxury Camping, LLC	20
Slide Mountain Cabins & RV Park	21
Sheep Mountain Lodge	21
Majestic Valley Wilderness Lodge	21
Lake Louise Lodge	21

## GOLD RUSH COUNTRY

Skeetawk Alpine Ski Area	25
Hatcher Pass Cabins	25
Meier Lake	25

## LAKE COUNTRY

Settlers Bay Golf Course	29
Evangelo's Restaurant	29
The Albatross @ Settlers Bay Golf Course	29
The Grape Tap	29
Extreme Fun Center & Valley Cinema	29
Alaska Chinook Charters	30
Deshka Landing Charters & Lodge	30
Fishtale River Guides	30
Settlers Bay Golf Course	30
Best Western Lake Lucille Inn	30
Grand View Inn & Suites	30
Sylvia's Quilt Depot	30
Alaska Railroad	31
Alaska Sunset View Resort	31

## DENALI COUNTRY

Fishtale River Guides	34
Alaskan Husky Adventures	34
Deshka Landing Charters & Lodge	35

Iditarod Trailside Lodging	35
Alaska Wild Harvest [LINE BREAK] Birch Syrup & Berry Products	35
Alaska Off-Road Adventures	35
Denali Overlook Inn	35
Mahay's Jet Boat Adventures	36, 40
Talkeetna River Guides	36
Denali Brewing Company	36
Park Connection Motorcoach Service	36
Meandering Moose Lodge	36
Talkeetna Camper Park	36
AK Sled Dog Tours	37
Phantom Tri River Charters	37
Talkeetna Air Taxi, Inc.	37
K2 Aviation	38
Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge	39
Alaska Railroad	39
AlaskaTrain.com	39
Alaska Tour & Travel	39
Mt. McKinley Princess Wilderness Lodge	39
Caribou Lodge Alaska	40
Maclaren River Lodge	40
Park Connection Motorcoach Service	40
TEMSCO Helicopters	41
Alaska Tour & Travel	41
Best Western Lake Lucille Inn	41
Denali Backcountry Lodge	41
Denali Cabins	41
AlaskaTrain.com	41
Alaska Railroad	42
Alaska Tour & Travel	42
Alaska Collection by Pursuit	42

## OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Caribou Lodge Alaska	45
----------------------	----

## THE REST OF ALASKA

Alaska Helicopter Tours	46
Rust's Flying Service	46
Copper Whale Inn	46
Greatland Adventures	46
Salmon Berry Travel & Tours	46
Explore Fairbanks	47
Kenai Fjords Tours	47
Major Marine Tours	47
Seward Windsong Lodge	47
Kenai Fjords Wilderness Lodge	48
Stan Stephens Glacier & Wildlife Cruises	48
Valdez Convention & Visitors Bureau	48
Phillips Cruises and Tours/26 Glacier Cruise	49
Alaska ATV Adventures	49
Alaska Railroad	49
Wild Journeys	50
Denali Backcountry Adventure Inside Back Cover	Inside Back Cover

## NEED MORE INFO?

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**Public Use Cabins**  
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**Statewide Info**  
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**Time and Temperature**  
844

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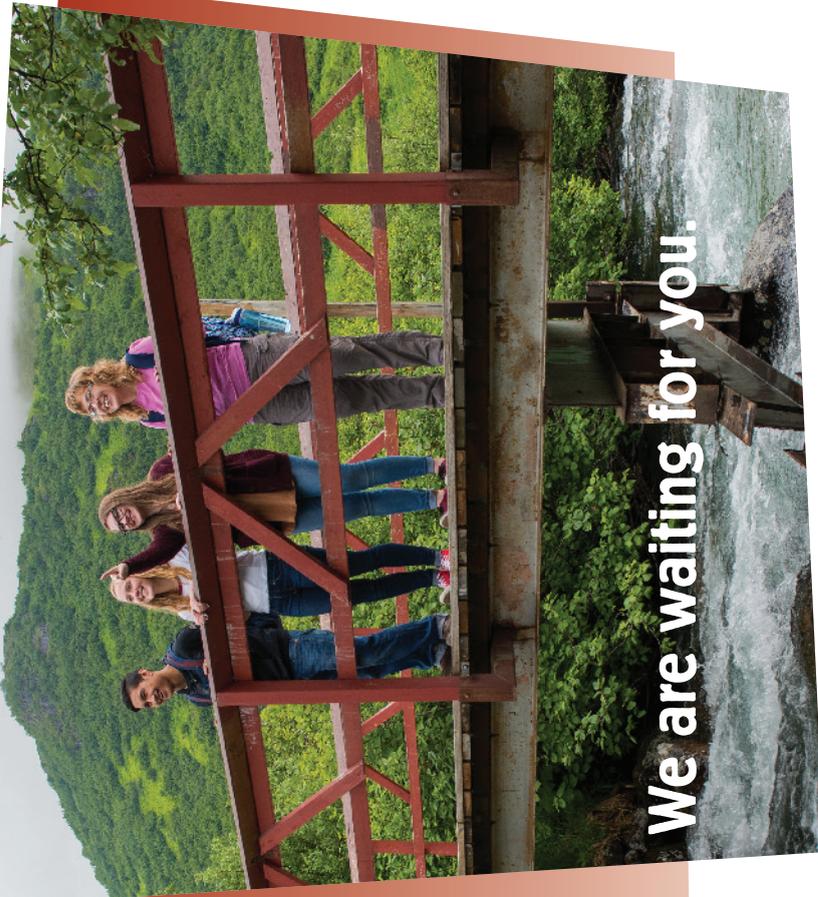
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